

SHOCK

JULY
35¢
PDC

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI

SWAMP MONSTER

MORE
DEADLY
THAN
THE
MALE

THE
OTHER
WORLD



**A Jewel Among
Swiss-made Watches**

FAMOUS

Pilot's Chronograph

Check Speed • For Measuring Distances
For Checking Parking Meters
For Timing Sports Events
Use As Stop Watch



TO CHECK SPEED



FOR MEASURING DISTANCES



FOR PARKING METERS



FOR TIMING SPORTING EVENTS

\$12⁹⁵

6 DIALS, 5 HANDS AND 2 PUSHBUTTON CONTROLS

Made famous by pilots who found it an accurate timepiece, and a more valuable than a precision instrument—If you like to fly, or drive sports cars, record your speed per mile, this will do the job. All 5 hands are machine-calibrated in Switzerland where the complete works are assembled. It is shock-resistant, antimagnetic, has an unbreakable mainspring, big sweep second hand, luminous dial and hands, gold-colored die-cast case, and a leather strap. It's a great watch for only \$12.95 plus 65¢ postage and handling. And it's fully guaranteed for 1 year! In every way.

Dept. CP-3
JALART HOUSE, 234 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10001

JALART HOUSE, Dept. CP-3
234 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

Rush me Pilot's Chronograph Watches @
\$12.95 plus 65¢ postage and handling.

Enclosed is check or m.o. for

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

JULY 1969 CONTENTS VOL 1, NO. 2

OUT OF CONTROL..... 4

Sometimes science goes too far. When it does, watch out

SWAMP MONSTER..... 9

The horror in a man's soul is no match for the hell in his heart

THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART..... 14

Say the wrong word just once and the result can lead to disaster

RAT-TRAP..... 18

Sometimes a plot of evil can turn out differently than expected

CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI..... 22

What man can ever escape once a revengeful spirit is set on his trail

THE DOOR..... 29

Last beyond hope of redemption

MORE DEADLY THAN THE MALE..... 34

Beware of the beauty that hides a heart thirsting for blood

THE OTHER WORLD..... 40

Who is civilized and who is the savage

CLUMSY..... 46

Don't dare the future until you can control your own abilities

Theodore S. Hecht, Editor
Jerry D. Sutton, Associate Editor
Alan Corbey, Assistant Editor
Lawrence P. Hatem, Circulation Director
Arthur Bonn, Art Director
Katherine Reyes, Asst. Art Director
Foy Davey, Art Associate
Christine Cancelli, Art Associate

SHOCK, Volume 1, Number 2, July 1969, is published bi-monthly by STANLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC., 261 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second-class postal rates has been made at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. Price 35¢ per copy; subscription rate \$2.10 per year. All material submitted at sender's risk. Publisher cannot be responsible for loss or non-return of any material which will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing correct postage. Any resemblance to any person living or dead is purely coincidental. Advertising representative, LEONARD GREENE ASSOCIATES, 180 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. Copyright 1969 by STANLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC. Printed in the U.S.A.





THEY TOLD MURRAY WACASEY IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE**... IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSPLANT THE HEAVY **IRONWOOD** TREE... FOR ITS WATER-STARVED TENTACLE-LIKE ROOTS ARE 40 FEET LONG! BUT THE EMINENT NEW JERSEY BIOLOGIST IS DETERMINED TO PROVE THEY'RE WRONG—DETERMINED ENOUGH TO SPEND A SMALL FORTUNE MOVING A FULL-GROWN TEXAS SPECIMEN TO HIS FAMOUS NATURE LABORATORY.

OUT OF CONTROL

THAT 1500 MILE TRIP BACK'LL BE THE **ROUGHEST** PART. WE'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL **DAY** AND **NIGHT**!



PATERSON, NEW JERSEY!... THE TREE IS FINALLY IN ITS PERMANENT HOME... HOWEVER...

I'VE **GOT** TO DO SOMETHING! THAT IRONWOOD TREE IS **DYING**! THOUSANDS GOING UP IN SMOKE!



THERON MOORE IS ALSO A BIOLOGIST... AND IS WACASEY'S ASSOCIATE... BUT IN NAME ONLY.

I'VE JUST FINISHED PERFECTING A **VITALIZING** FORMULA, MURRAY. IF YOU WANT, I'LL SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS TREE!



IF I WERE **DYING**, I WOULDN'T ACCEPT **YOUR** HELP. I'M NOT SHARING THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH **ANYONE**!



THAT SELF-CENTERED SCUM.
HE'S GOING TO GET HELP
WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR
NOT... AND HE **PROBABLY**
WON'T!



LATE
THAT NIGHT,
MOORE
UNLOCKS THE
DOOR TO THE
NATURE LABORATORY
AND WALKS
STRAIGHT TO
THE IRONWOOD
PLOT. INSTEAD
OF SPRAYING
THE AMPLE
WHIFF OF HIS
OVER-POTENT
CHEMICAL ON
THE TREE...
HE EMPTIES
A WHOLE
GALLON
CONTAINER!

MOORE BACKS AWAY. HE STOPS
NEAR THE DOOR AND LOOKS AT THE
OMINOUS SILHOUETTE IN THE MOON-
LIT ROOM... AND MAKES HIS
PROPHECY...

THAT GNARLED HUNK OF WOOD
WILL GROW ITSELF TO DEATH IN
24 HOURS... BUT NOT
BEFORE **WRECKING** THE
ENTIRE ROOM!



BY DAWN THE TREE HAS SLOWLY COME TO
LIFE... GROWING... ITS ROOTS BURSTING
OUT OF THE GROUND... GROWING, AND
MOVING LIKE THE TENTACLES OF AN
OCTOPUS.



AND THEN... THEN THE TREE ITSELF BEGINS TO
MOVE... TOWARDS THE DOOR TO FREEDOM... TO
ESCAPE...



WACASEY COMES TO WORK EARLY... AND IS MET
BY HIS CAPTIVE!

GOOD LORD!
HELP!... (GASP!)
...IT'S...



ESCAPE! THE HEAVY MASS **MUST** FIND OPEN
SPACE...

EEEEEE!



CONFUSION! SIRENS SCREAMING... CARS COLLIDING... PEOPLE STAMPEDING. **NOTHING ALTERS** THE MONSTER'S BLIND IRREGULAR PATH OF HAVOC EASTWARD ACROSS PATERSON.



THE ARMY IS SUMMONED!
BULLETS ARE FUTILE...



... HAND GRENADES ARE NO
MORE POTENT THAN FIRE-
CRACKERS...



...FLAME THROWERS ARE INEFFECTIVE
AGAINST THIS TOUGH MASS
OF IRONWOOD GONE WILD!



**MOORE BECOMES PANICKY AND PHONES THE
AIR FORCE...**

YES...YES! I **KNOW** IT'S
GROWING TOO FAST TO BE
DESTROYED. BUT **LISTEN!**
THIS IS THERON MOORE... I'M
A BIOLOGIST... I TELL YOU
THAT GROWTH **CAN** BE
DESTROYED, IF YOU FORCE IT
INTO THE HUDSON RIVER OR
INTO THE BAY!... IT **CAN'T**
LIVE IN SALT WATER!



**THE AIR BASE COMMANDING OFFICER HAS NO
TIME FOR MORE THAN A SNAP DECISION. HE
BARKS OUT THE ORDERS...**

HAMILTON! RUSH CALL AN EMERGENCY **DIVE
BOMBER** TO NORTHERN MANHATTAN,
IMMEDIATELY! THE MONSTER IS APPROACHING
THE **GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE**...
IF IT CROSSES, ORDER THE BRIDGE BOMBED!
THIS... THIS "THING **MUST** BE FORCED INTO
THE WATER... INTO AN UPSTREAM SALT WATER
CURRENT!

YES SIR!



ADVERSARY SIGHTED AT SIX O'CLOCK! THE BOMBER BEGINS ITS LETHAL DIVE...



...ITS LOAD IS RELEASED! **BULLSEYE!**



SIMPLY THE MASSIVE BODY FALLS DOWNWARD...INTO THE EDDYING WATERS OF THE HUDSON.



THE IRONWOOD SINKS LIKE LEAD...BEING TOO HEAVY TO FLOAT! A SCIENTIST DIVER REPORTS IT IS LIFELESS.

I GUESS IT'D BE FAR TOO HEAVY TO BOTHER DREDGING! WE'LL JUST LET IT ROT DOWN THERE!



MOORE'S FAME AS THE SAVIOR OF MANHATTAN RAPIDLY ADVANCES HIS WEALTH AND PRESTIGE. HE'S GLAD IT ALL HAPPENED... GLAD... UNTIL A YEAR LATER IN HIS OFFICE... HE GASPS...

YE GODS!! WHAT'S THAT? IT...IT LOOKS LIKE...



HE RUNS TO THE WINDOW, DISBELIEVING, UNTIL HE SEES...

THOUSANDS OF 'EM! MILLIONS! IRONWOOD ROOTS...EVERYWHERE!



THAT TREE...IT MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO A DOWNSTREAM FRESH WATER CURRENT!

NO...NO! AAAG-GH!



THE ROOTS BEGIN TO APPEAR IN COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY...IN AUSTRALIA...



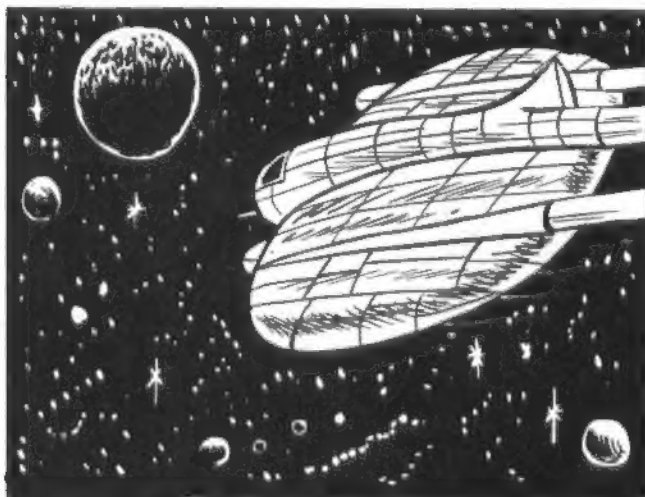
...IN JAPAN...



YES... AND EVEN BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!



FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUTER SPACE...FROM ANOTHER WORLD...LOOMS A MYSTERIOUS FOREIGN-LOOKING SPACE CRAFT...**BOUND FOR EARTH!**



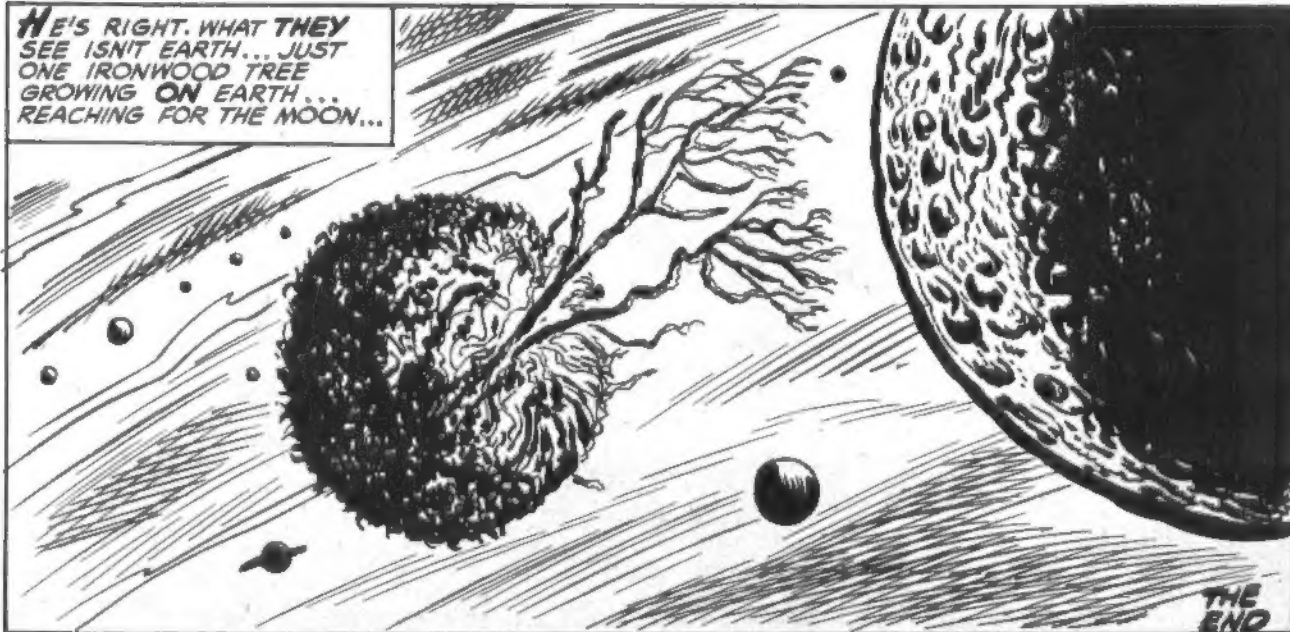
ITS OCCUPANTS ARE LIKE NOTHING WE'VE EVER SEEN AND THEY, OF COURSE, ARE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT WE LOOK LIKE. THEY CHECK THEIR PLOTTING AND CALCULATE...

CHECK SPEED. WE'RE COMING WITHIN VIEWING RANGE OF PLANET THREE!

I SEE IT NOW!... NO! SURELY THAT CAN'T BE EARTH! IT'S... IT'S...



HE'S RIGHT. WHAT THEY SEE ISN'T EARTH... JUST ONE IRONWOOD TREE GROWING ON EARTH... REACHING FOR THE MOON...



THE END

SWAMP MONSTER

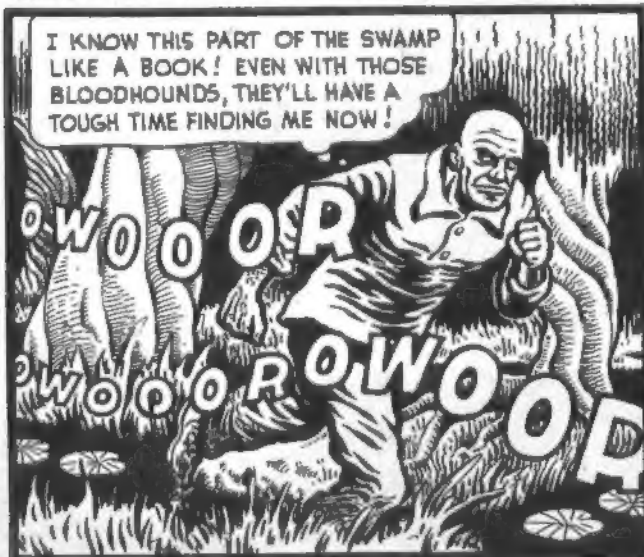
KILLER CABOT FLEES FROM
THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE ---
ONLY TO RUN INTO SOMETHING
MORE TERRIBLE DEEP IN THE
MALIGNANT SWAMP!



YOU'VE MANAGED TO BREAK JAIL ONLY HOURS
BEFORE YOU'RE TO HANG FOR MURDER, JACK
CABOT! YOU'VE PLAYED IT SMART---YOU THINK....

YOU JOG STEADILY INTO THE DISMAL MARSH,
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIDDEN PATHS YOU KNOW
SO WELL.....

I KNOW THIS PART OF THE SWAMP
LIKE A BOOK! EVEN WITH THOSE
BLOODHOUNDS, THEY'LL HAVE A
TOUGH TIME FINDING ME NOW!



HA! THE MUTTS MUST HAVE LOST THE SCENT!
I CAN HARDLY HEAR THEM!



YOU STRUGGLE ON AND ON-- EVEN LONG AFTER YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT YOU'VE GIVEN THE POSSE THE SLIP. SUDDENLY YOU COME INTO A CLEARING!...

HERE IS A BREAK, YOU THINK -- A PLACE TO HOLE UP FOR A FEW HOURS! BUT AS YOU APPROACH THE DOOR, IT SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN!...

AN OLD HOUSE! I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS ONE HERE! I MUST HAVE COME FARTHER THAN I FIGURED!



IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT I HAVE A CALLER! THEREFORE YOU ARE DOUBLY WELCOME, MR. CABOT!



SO YOU KNOW ME! WELL, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A BOARDER, MISTER! GET ME SOME GRUB, AND IF ANYONE COMES SNOOPING AROUND, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME!

NO NEED FOR THREATS, MR. CABOT! I'M VERY AGREEABLE! IN FACT, I'D BE WILLING TO ALTER YOUR APPEARANCE --- SO THAT YOU'D NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING RECOGNIZED!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU A PLASTIC SURGEON?

NO, BUT I CAN DO A MUCH BETTER JOB THAN A PLASTIC SURGEON!



AND HERE'S HOW I'LL DO IT!

UH-UH-UH-UH...



YOUR ATTACKER IS FIERCELY OVERPOWERING! YOU BLANK OUT. WHEN YOU COME TO, YOU'RE ON THE FLOOR. TERRIFIC PAINS KNIFE THRU YOUR BODY!



SOMETHING STRANGE AND TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING TO YOU, BUT YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT IT IS!..

HELP! I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING TORN APART!



THE PAINS SUBSIDE. YOU STARE IN UNBELIEF AT WHAT USED TO BE NORMAL HANDS!...



MY FACE!-- MY BODY!
I'M LIKE AN ANIMAL!



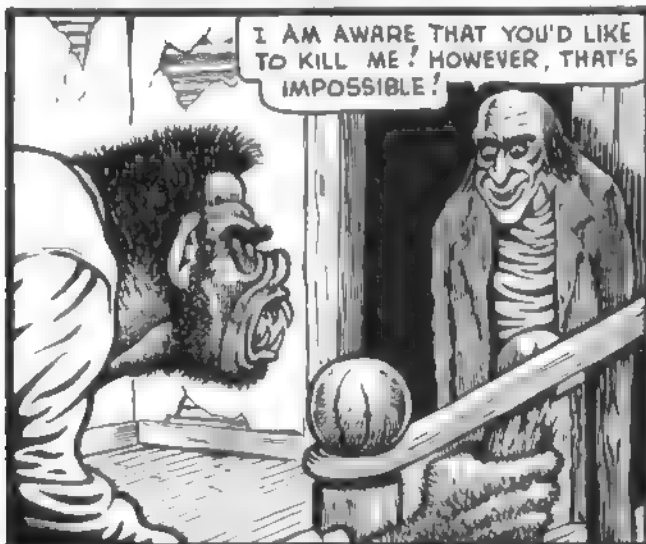
WH--WHAT
DID YOU
DO TO ME?

I SIMPLY INNOCULATED
YOUR BODY WITH
THE CAPACITY TO
CONFORM TO THE LEVEL
OF YOUR MIND ---AND
YOU HAVE THE MIND OF
A FIEND!



HATRED WELLS UP WITHIN YOU! IT SEEMS TO
REFRESH AND STRENGTHEN YOU! YOU CRAVE TO
USE THAT STRENGTH TO KILL !...

YOUR WEAPON HISSES DIRECTLY TOWARD ITS
MARK --- BUT SEEMS TO PASS RIGHT THRU IT!

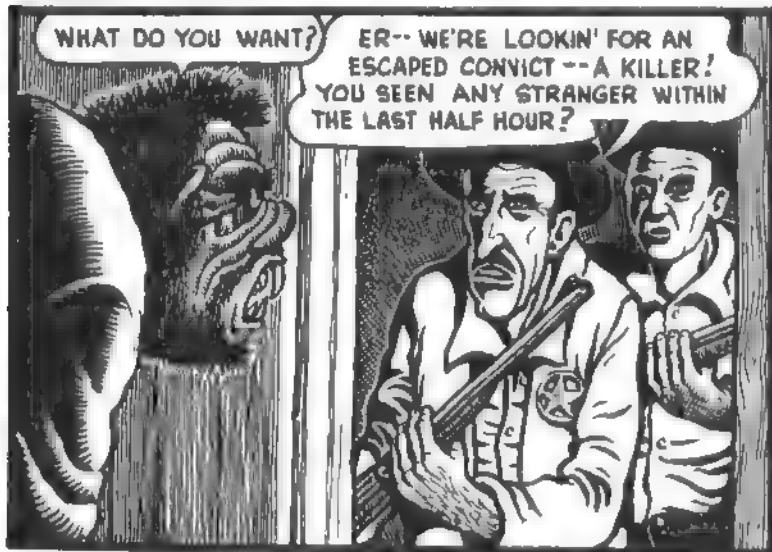


THE NEBULOUS BODY DRIFTS UPWARD -- THEN
CONDENSES INTO A WINGED CREATURE!

AS THE BAT FLUTTERS TOWARD THE WINDOW,
THERE IS A BANGING ON THE DOOR !...



YOU YANK THE DOOR OPEN. THERE STANDS THE SHERIFF WITH ONE OF HIS MEN! YOU GRIN TO YOURSELF AT THEIR ALARM AT SIGHT OF YOU....



COPPERS, EH? I DON'T LIKE COPS! GET OUT!

NOW TAKE IT EASY, MISTER! YOU'RE DEALIN' WITH THE LAW!



FILLED WITH HATRED FOR YOUR PURSUERS, YOU IMPULSIVELY SNATCH UP THE RIFLES...

....AND AMAZE EVEN YOURSELF AT YOUR DEMONIAIC DISPLAY OF STRENGTH!



YOU WAIT UNTIL THE FRIGHTENED MEN ARE OUT OF SIGHT. THEN YOU TAKE TO THE TREES, AND WITH THE AGILITY OF THE DEMON YOU HAVE BECOME, YOU RACE AFTER THEM!...



HE - HE WAS A MONSTER -- A DEVIL! I NEVER SAW ANYONE SO UGLY!

DON'T WASTE YOUR WIND TALKIN', BEN! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST AND GET SOME HELP!



A FEW MINUTES LATER YOU'VE SKIRTED AHEAD OF YOUR INTENDED PREY! NOW, SILENT AS A GHOST, YOU LIE IN WAIT FOR THEM TO COME DOWN THE TRAIL BENEATH YOU.....

YOU LEAP!...

THE MEN HEAR YOU CRASHING THRU THE BRANCHES....



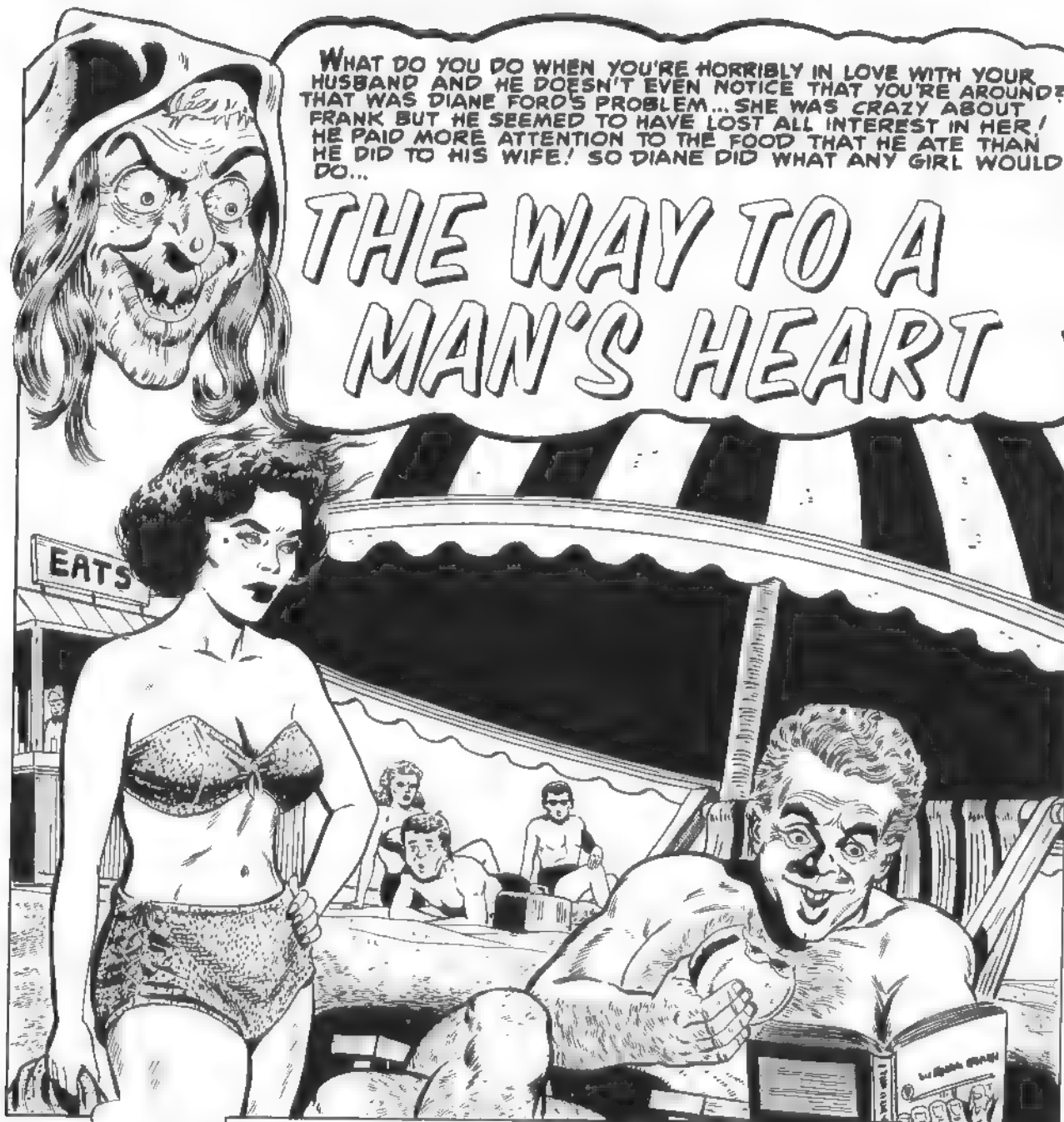
YOU ARE ALMOST UPON THEM WHEN A LOOP OF VINE CATCHES AROUND YOUR THROAT!...

THE FORCE OF THE FALL BREAKS YOUR NECK! WITHIN SECONDS YOU ARE SWINGING LIFELESSLY!



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE HORRIBLY IN LOVE WITH YOUR HUSBAND AND HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT YOU'RE AROUND? THAT WAS DIANE FORO'S PROBLEM... SHE WAS CRAZY ABOUT FRANK BUT HE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST ALL INTEREST IN HER! HE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE FOOD THAT HE ATE THAN HE DID TO HIS WIFE! SO DIANE DID WHAT ANY GIRL WOULD DO...

THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART



DIANE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL...

...WITH PLENTY TO OFFER...

...WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH FRANK? DIANE WASN'T JUST ANOTHER GIRL... WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIS LOVE?



WHAT...WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND...
AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO
CARE! DON'T YOU LOVE ME?

SURE I DO,
BABY... MUNCH...
STOP BOTHERING
ME!



BUT IF YOU STILL LOVE
ME WHY DON'T YOU PAY
ANY ATTENTION TO ME!

ER, EXCUSE ME, HONEY! I
GOTTA GO GET ANOTHER
SANDWICH. I'M STILL
HUNGRY! NEXT TIME
BRING A BIGGER
LUNCH, WILL YOU?



SEE WHAT I
MEAN! SHE TALKS
ABOUT LOVE AND
WHAT DOES THE
LUG DO... GET A
SALAMI SANDWICH!
WHAT WOULD YOU
DO IF YOU WERE
DIANE? WELL, SHE
DID THE SAME
THING... CALLED
HER MOTHER!



...SOB...SOB...BUT
HE NEVER PAYS ANY
ATTENTION TO ME
ANY MORE... AND I
LOVE HIM SO MUCH!
WHAT AM I GOING
TO DO? HE'S MORE
INTERESTED IN EATING
THAN HE IS IN ME!



HMM, AS SERIOUS AS
THAT, EH? JUST GIVE HIM
THE TREATMENT ALL
OVER AGAIN... LIKE YOU
DID WHEN YOU WERE
SINGLE. GET HIM TO
TAKE YOU TO A NIGHT-
CLUB... AND YOU KNOW
THE DRESS TO WEAR!



TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT... OH,
MY DARLING, IT HAS TO WORK..
IT JUST HAS TO! YOU'VE GOT
TO LOVE ME THE WAY YOU
ONCE DID!



SO DIANE
TOOK HER
MOTHER'S ADVICE
AND THE STAGE
WAS SET... LET'S
SEE HOW MAMA'S
ADVICE TURNED
OUT!





FRANK! THAT MAN... HE'S...HE'S MAKING A PASS AT ME!

WHA...WHAT'S THE MATTER! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY...JUST FORGET ABOUT HIM AND EAT YOUR DINNER! IT'S DELICIOUS!

NOW I KNOW YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANY MORE! WHEN WE WERE FIRST MARRIED YOU WOULD HAVE BEATEN THAT MAN TO A PULP...NOW...NOW YOU JUST GO RIGHT ON EATING! FRANK, TAKE ME HOME!

BUT...BUT...OH, ALL RIGHT... JUST LET ME FINISH THIS DESSERT! IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!



NO, MAMA'S ADVICE DIDN'T WORK, DID IT? WELL, BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME! THERE MUST BE A WAY TO BRING BACK FRANK'S LOVE... THERE HAD TO BE!

...AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK TO PROVE HIS LOVE CAME VERY QUICKLY! FOR A FEW DAYS LATER WAS THEIR ANNIVERSARY...



...WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING HIM SO LATE? IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY! I KNOW, I BET HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF A SURPRISE FOR ME! SURE, THAT'S IT! THAT MUST BE HIM NOW!



YOU FORGOT IT WAS OUR ANNIVERSARY! OH NO! AND YOU CAN'T COME HOME... YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUR PARTNER... AT A NEW RESTAURANT! OH, FRANK, HOW COULD YOU!

AND SO ONCE AGAIN DIANE TURNED TO THE ONLY PERSON SHE THOUGHT COULD GET HER HUSBAND'S LOVE BACK... HER MOTHER!



...BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HIM...I LOVE HIM TOO MUCH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG! ALL HE THINKS ABOUT IS FOOD!

FOOD, EH? I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! IF THIS DOESN'T BRING HIM BACK NOTHING WILL!



...I'LL PREPARE HIM A MEAL FIT FOR A KING! OF COURSE WE'LL TELL HIM YOU COOKED IT, BUT HE WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

OH MOTHER, DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK... **BUT IT HAS TO! IT HAS TO!**

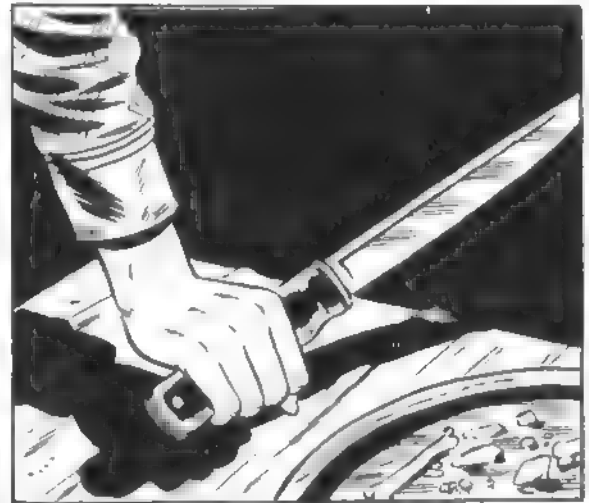
ONCE AGAIN THE STAGE WAS SET! MAMA KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS, AND THIS TIME SHE WAS GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING WENT WRONG...SHE WAS THERE TO SERVE THE MEAL JUST IN CASE...



THERE WAS NO SOUND AS FRANK DUG IN... MOTHER AND DAUGHTER WAITED EAGERLY FOR THE VERDICT... A VERDICT THAT WOULD BRING FRANK'S HEART BACK TO DIANE!



THAT WAS THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK! MAYBE MAMA'S ADVICE WASN'T TOO GOOD... MAYBE SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO KEEP A MAN... BUT ONE THING SHE DID KNOW WAS THAT FRANK HAD INSULTED HER COOKING! NO MAN COULD DO THAT!





RAT-TRAP

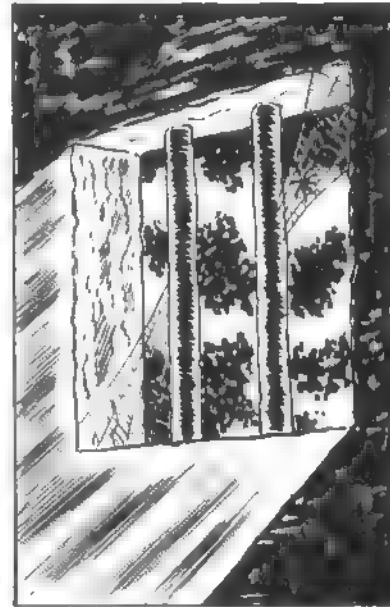
SURE IT'S LIKE A RAT-TRAP! AND THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
ONE COURSE LEFT TO YOU...



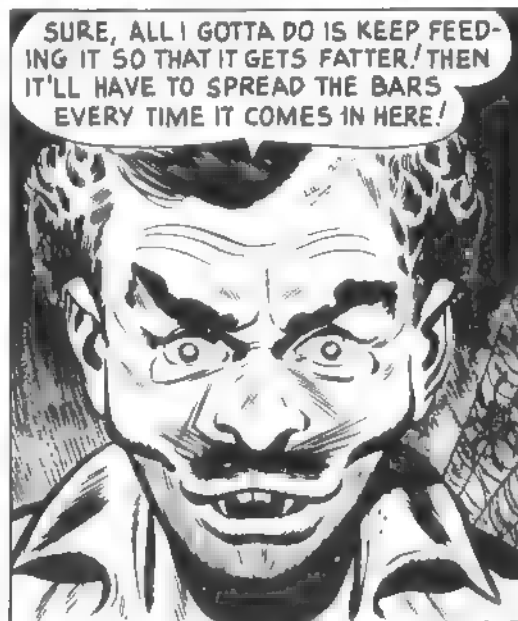
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT ALONE! AT LEAST YOU HAVE COMPANY...EVEN IF IT'S NOT TO YOUR CHOOSING!



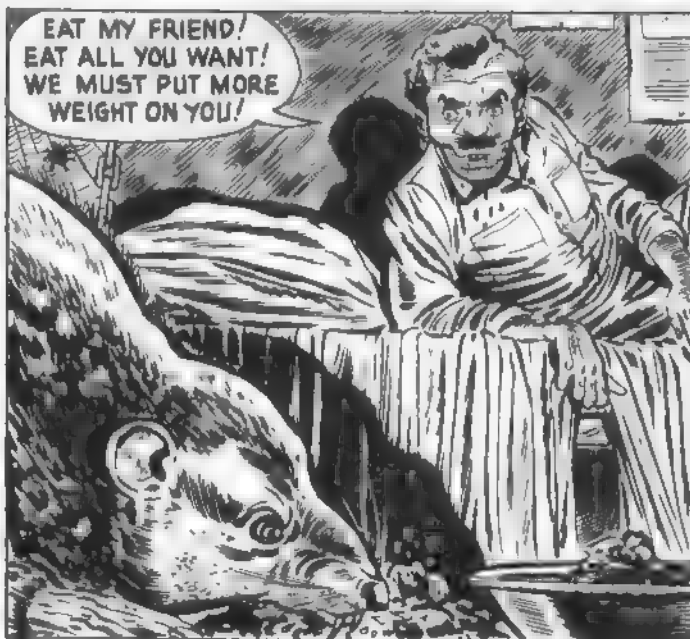
FINISHED WITH HIS MEAL, THE RAT HAD JUST ONE THOUGHT IN MIND... **ESCAPE!**



BUT THE RAT HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE! IT HAD PLANTED THE SEED OF AN IDEA... AN IDEA WHICH WOULD LEAD TO...



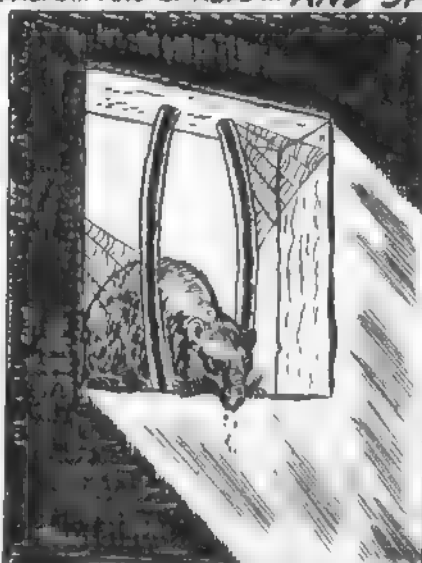
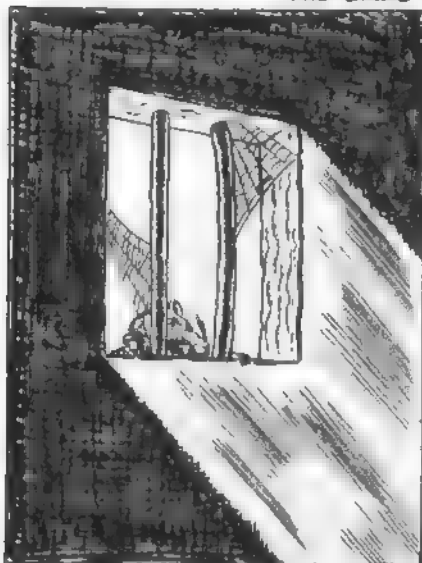
AND SO THE PRISONER PUT HIS PLAN INTO OPERATION AND THE SCAVENGER, URGED ON BY THE PANGS OF HUNGER, RESPONDED...

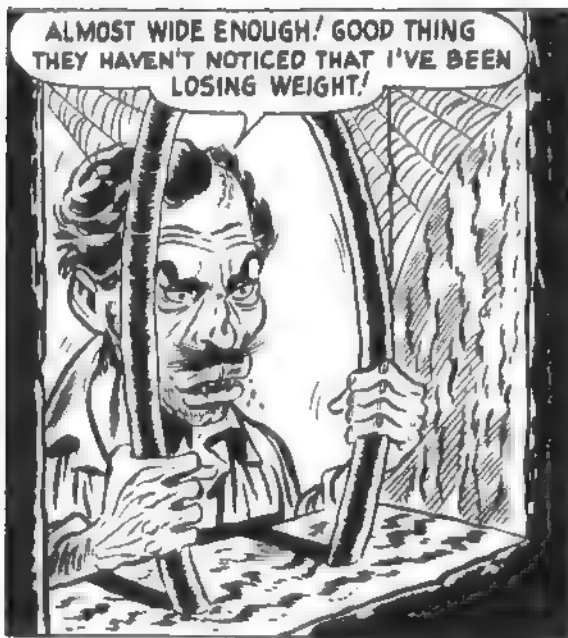


HAVING EATEN ITS FILL, THE RAT TURNED TO LOOK BACK AT ITS BENEFACTOR...NEITHER ONE REALIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY WERE TO PLAY IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES!



AND THE DAYS PASSED AND TURNED INTO WEEKS, AND THE WEEKS PASSED AND TURNED INTO MONTHS...AND THE BARS SPREAD... AND SPREAD... AND SPREAD!





ALMOST WIDE ENOUGH! GOOD THING THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED THAT I'VE BEEN LOSING WEIGHT!



COME, MY HUNGRY FAT FRIEND! JUST A FEW MORE DAYS NOW, THAT'S ALL!



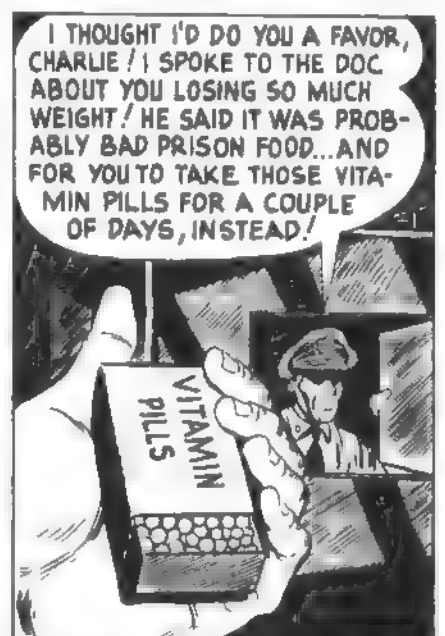
HAVE PATIENCE, MY FURRY FAT FRIEND! OUR SERVANT IS LATE TODAY!

BUT THE GUARD WAS IN NO HURRY... BESIDES, HE HAD MANY HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED!



OKAY, CHARLIE, HERE'S YOUR GRUB!

WHAT THE... IT'S ONLY A BOX... WHERE'S THE FOOD?



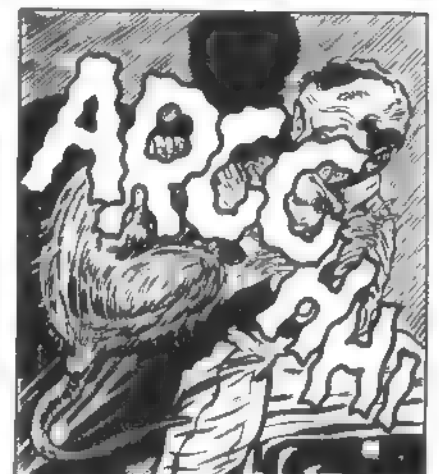
I THOUGHT I'D DO YOU A FAVOR, CHARLIE! I SPOKE TO THE DOC ABOUT YOU LOSING SO MUCH WEIGHT! HE SAID IT WAS PROBABLY BAD PRISON FOOD... AND FOR YOU TO TAKE THOSE VITAMIN PILLS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, INSTEAD!

THE VITAMIN PILLS WERE ALL-RIGHT FOR CHARLIE, BUT WHAT WAS THE HUNGRY FAT RAT TO EAT...

YOU CAN'T STOP A HUNGRY CRAZY RAT! YOU SPOILED HIM, CHARLIE... BETTER FIND SOME FOOD FOR THE FAT RAT BEFORE HE...



THE RAT WANTS FOOD, BUT WHERE IS HE GOING TO GET IT...?



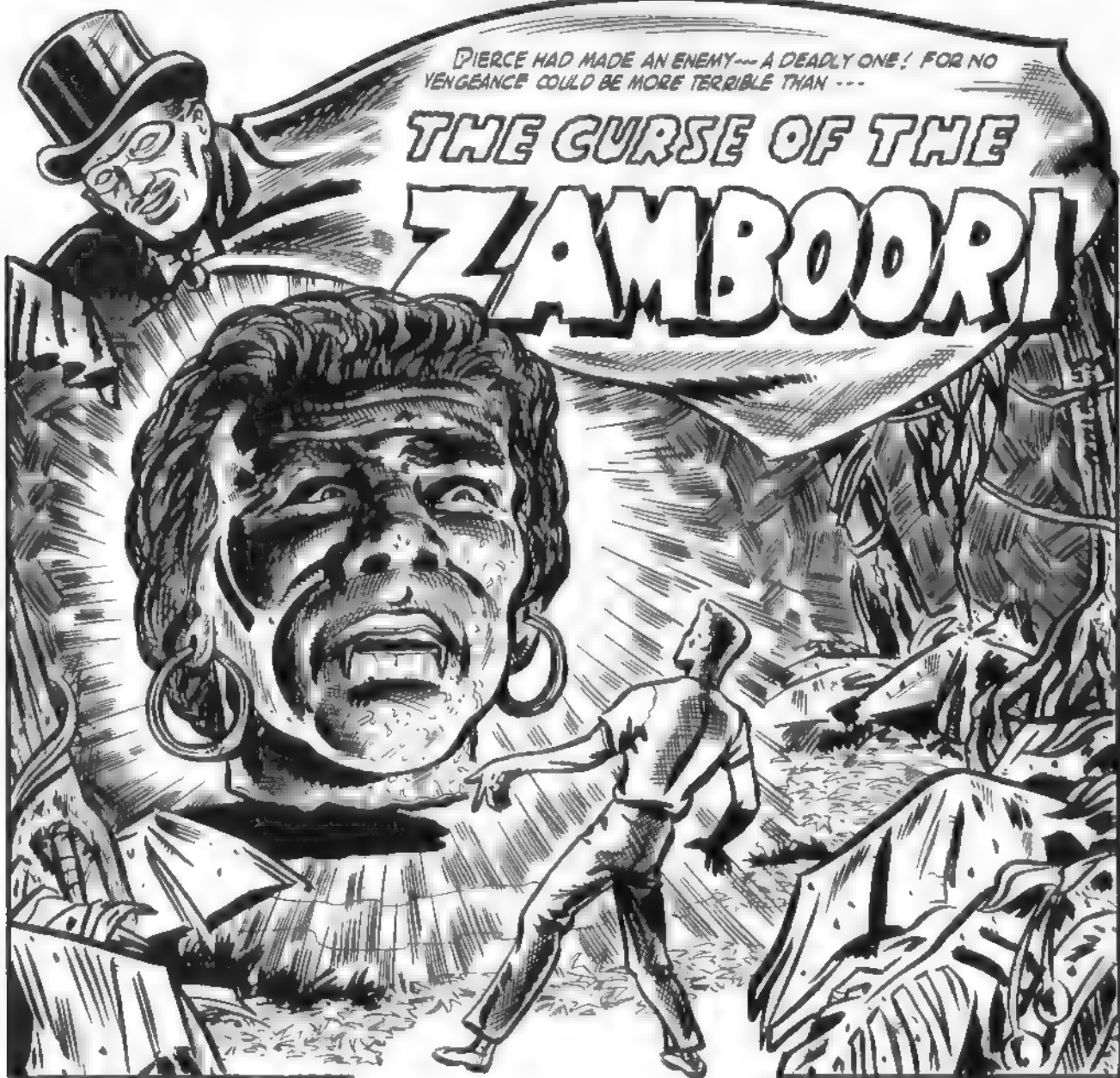
...NEVER MIND, CHARLIE... HE'S FOUND THE ONLY PIECE OF FOOD LEFT IN THE RAT-TRAP...

YOU!

THE END

PIERCE HAD MADE AN ENEMY--A DEADLY ONE! FOR NO VENGEANCE COULD BE MORE TERRIBLE THAN ---

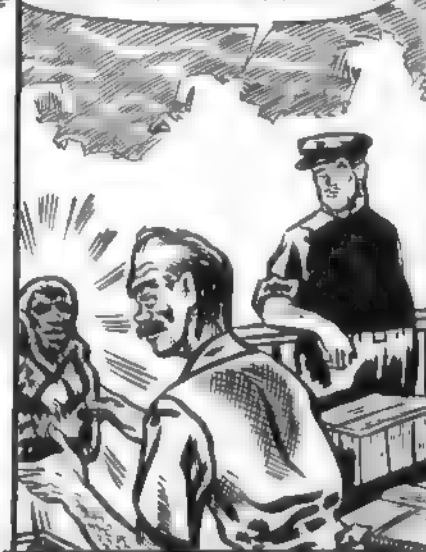
THE CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI



THERE ARE FEW PLACES ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE TO WHICH THE WHITE MAN HAS NOT BROUGHT SOME TRACES OF CIVILIZATION--ONE OF THESE PLACES LIES IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON COUNTRY! IT WAS HERE THAT PROFESSOR ENGLANDER AND HIS ASSISTANT, PIERCE, TRADED STEEL TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS FOR PRICELESS TREASURES OF NATIVE ART---



WELL, ANOTHER WEEK IN THIS GODFORSAKEN COUNTRY AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHOVE OFF!



SUDDENLY PIERCE CAME STORMING ONTO THE BOAT--

ATTACK ME, WILL HE? --I'LL SHOW THAT DIRTY HEATHEN!

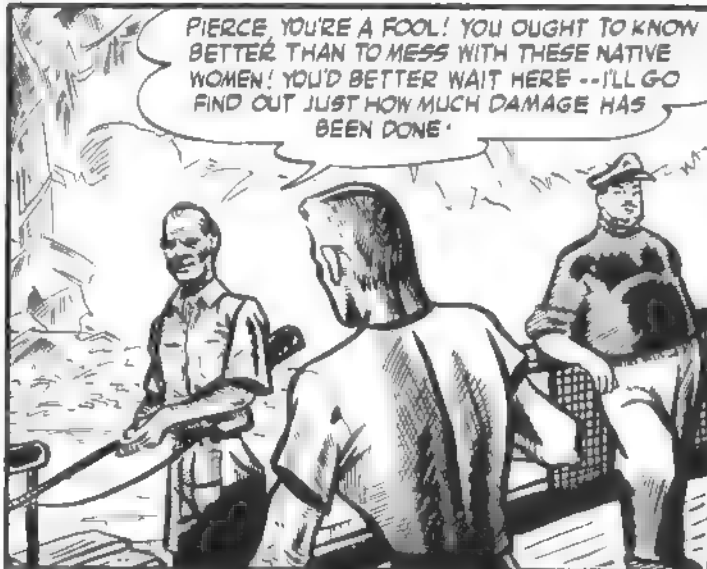
WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT, PIERCE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



I HAD A RUN IN WITH ONE OF THE NATIVES ---
CAUGHT ME TALKING TO HIS WOMAN! HE TRIED
TO ATTACK ME WITH A KNIFE! IF I'D BEEN
ARMED, I'D HAVE KILLED HIM!

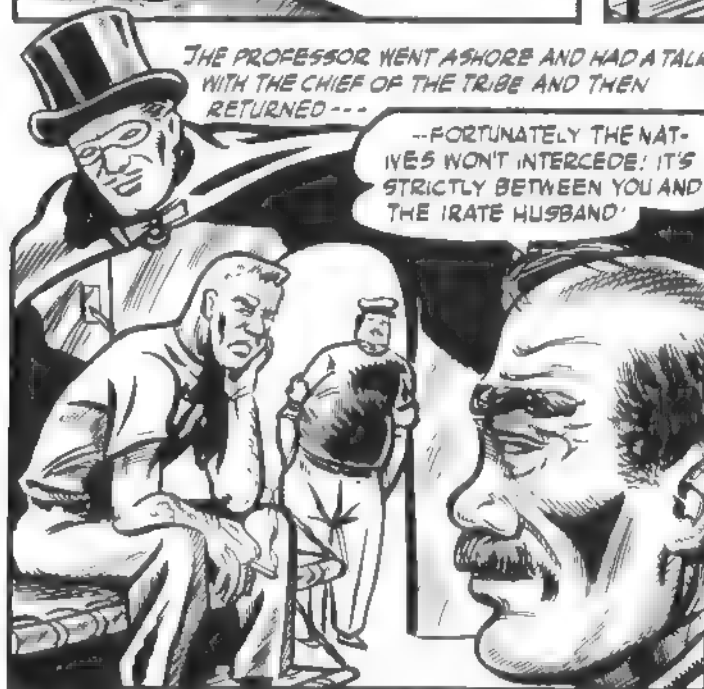


PIERCE YOU'RE A FOOL! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
BETTER THAN TO MESS WITH THESE NATIVE
WOMEN! YOU'D BETTER WAIT HERE -- I'LL GO
FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH DAMAGE HAS
BEEN DONE.



THE PROFESSOR WENT ASHORE AND HAD A TALK
WITH THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE AND THEN
RETURNED ---

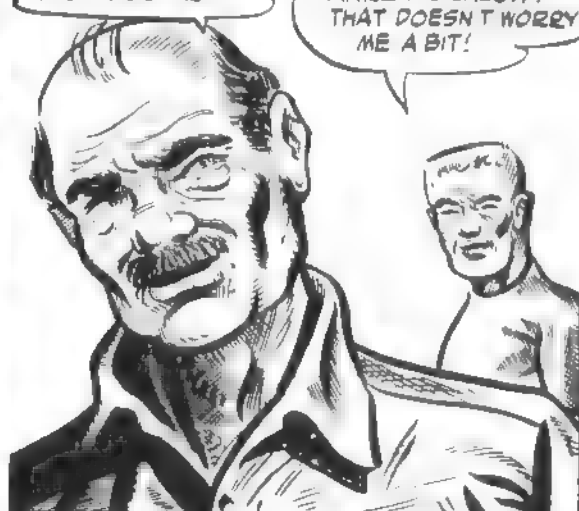
--FORTUNATELY THE NAT-
IVES WON'T INTERCEDE! IT'S
STRICTLY BETWEEN YOU AND
THE IRATE HUSBAND!



OH, INCIDENTALLY-- HE HAPPENS TO
BE A MEMBER OF THE **ZAMBOORI**--
THE TRIBE'S MYSTIC SOCIETY!
HE'S STUDYING TO BE A
WITCH-DOCTOR!

YOU MEAN
**BLACK
MAGIC?**

HA-HA-- DON'T
MAKE ME LAUGH!
THAT DOESN'T WORRY
ME A BIT!



PROFESSOR ENGLANDER ADVISED HIS IMPETUOUS
ASSISTANT TO REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR STAY
BUT PIERCE WAS NOT SO EASILY
DAUNTED ---

AAH! THIS IS CRAZY-- THAT
BLASTED HEATHEN DOESN'T
SCARE ME! I'M GOING
ASHORE!



GET BACK HERE,
YOU FOOL!



YOU ARE LUCKY, SEÑOR, THAT HE USES ORDINARY WEAPONS! THERE ARE WORSE FORMS OF VENGEANCE HE COULD TAKE... **ZAMBOORI VENGEANCE!**

YOU BELIEVE IN BLACK MAGIC, CAPTAIN FERNANDO?



I HAVE SEEN, SEÑOR! THEY CAN DO TERRIBLE THINGS--- THEY CAN BRING GREAT PAIN TO THEIR VICTIMS-- TERRIBLE DREAMS--AND ALWAYS THEY PRODUCE SNAKES AS A SIGN THAT THEY HAVE SET A CURSE! IT IS VERY **POWERFUL MAGIC!**

BAH --- NONSENSE! ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD BELIEVE THAT!



BUT THAT NIGHT---

WELL, I THINK I'LL TURN IN--IT'S BEEN A PRETTY HARD-- WHAT'S THAT?

SHOTS-- FROM PIERCE'S CABIN-- LET US GO!

BANG
BANG



THEY WERE COILED RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY BUNK-- LUCKY THING I TURNED ON THE LIGHT!

SNAKES! THE SIGN OF THE ZAMBOORI!



THE ZAMBOORI, EH? WELL I'LL SHOW THAT SAVAGE WHO HE'S FOOLING WITH---



NOW WHY WOULD HE BE TALKING TO THAT **CUT-THROAT** FIRST MATE OF YOURS?

I DO NOT KNOW, SEÑOR, BUT **NO GOOD** CAN COME OF IT!



HOURS LATER, JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK A STRANGE SCENE TOOK PLACE --



AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, THEY HOISTED ANCHOR, CAST OFF THEIR LINES, AND WERE SOON STEAMING DOWN RIVER TOWARD RIO DE JANEIRO --



WELL, ON THE WHOLE, IT'S BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL MISSION! WE GOT SOME REAL TREASURES!

YEAH... I'LL SAY WE DID!



BUT IF PIERCE THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE OVER HE WAS MISTAKEN! THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING --

WHAT WAS THAT SHOOTING ABOUT? WHAT HAPPENED?

THE HEAD-- THE NEATHEN'S HEAD! IT WAS RIGHT THERE!



WHAT HEAD? IT WAS NOTHING-- BUT A LAMP-stand IN THE SHAPE OF A GLOBE!

IT WAS THE HEAD, I TELL YOU --BUT HOW? I BURNED IT MYSELF! IT COULDN'T COME BACK --

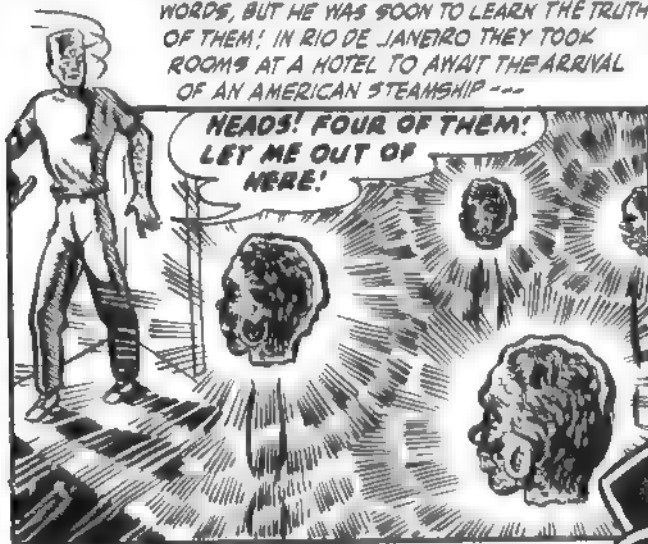
PIERCE BROKE DOWN AND RELATED HOW HE HAD HIRED THE FIRST MATE TO MURDER THE NATIVE AND BRING BACK THE HEAD AS PROOF --

AND THEN I THREW IT INTO THE FURNACE... WATCHED IT BURN...

I AM AFRAID YOU HAVE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE SENOR! THE MURDERER'S CURSE IS THE WORST OF THE ZAMBOORI CURSES! IT WILL FOLLOW YOU NOW TO THE GRAVE!



PIERCE TRIED TO LAUGH OFF CAPTAIN FERNANDO'S WORDS, BUT HE WAS SOON TO LEARN THE TRUTH OF THEM! IN RIO DE JANEIRO THEY TOOK ROOMS AT A HOTEL TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF AN AMERICAN STEAMSHIP ---



HEADS! FOUR OF THEM! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

PIERCE ... YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! IT'S NOTHING BUT A BED!

I TELL YOU THEY WERE THERE! I'M NOT GOING BACK INTO THAT ROOM!



IT WAS A TREMBLING PIERCE THAT ACCOMPANIED PROFESSOR ENGLANDER DOWN TO THE PIER TO ARRANGE PASSAGE TO THE STATES! ON THE WAY, THEY RAN INTO SOME CHILDREN PLAYING BALL!



THE HEAD! THERE IT IS AGAIN!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ONLY A RUBBER BALL!



IT DIDN'T TAKE PROFESSOR ENGLANDER LONG TO FIGURE OUT THE BASIS OF PERCE'S HALLUCINATIONS ---

DON'T YOU SEE MAN? EVERY ROUND OBJECT APPEARS TO YOU AS A HEAD - BEDPOSTS - RUBBER BALL! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION! THE SOONER YOU REALIZE IT, THE QUICKER THIS THING WILL END!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO STOP BELIEVING IN THOSE HEADS!



BUT THE VISIONS PERSISTED, AND ALTHOUGH PIERCE TRIED TO IGNORE THEM HIS NERVES WERE REACHING THE BREAKING POINT ---

WHY? WHY DON'T THEY STOP? WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE?



SUDDENLY AN IDEA OCCURRED TO HIM! IF THESE HEADS WERE MERELY A TRICK OF HIS VISION, AS THE PROFESSOR SAID, THEN WHY COULDN'T HE FOIL IT WITH HIS SENSE OF TOUCH?

THAT'S IT! IF I COULD JUST FEEL THESE THINGS FEEL WHAT THEY REALLY ARE, THEN I COULD CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THE HEADS DON'T REALLY EXIST!

DETERMINED TO TRY THIS PLAN, PIERCE LOOKED ABOUT THE ROOM AND SURE ENOUGH, WHERE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE DOORKNOB, HE SAW A -- HEAD!

NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS FEEL THE KNOB, AND THE HEAD SHOULD DISAPPEAR!

WITHOUT HESITATING HE GRIPPED THE THING IN HIS HAND -- WITH A SHRIEK OF HORROR HE PULLED AWAY --- FOR THE THING IN HIS HAND WAS FLESH AND HAIR AND IT HAD QUIVERED AGAINST HIS PALM!

TREMBLING WITH FEAR AND HORROR HE LEANED ON THE DRESSER FOR SUPPORT! THERE HE PERCEIVED THE SHOCK WHICH COMPLETELY UNHINGED HIS MIND!

WHEN PROFESSOR ENGLANDER RETURNED TO THE HOTEL, HE FOUND PIERCE DEAD! HE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR IN A POOL OF BLOOD, HIS HEAD COMPLETELY SEVERED FROM HIS BODY -- IN HIS HAND WAS CLUTCHED A LARGE KNIFE -- IT HAD BEEN THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO -- THE ONLY WAY TO BREAK "THE CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI!"

The END

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LOST? HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN THE PANIC AND UNUTTERABLE TERROR OF BEING TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY LOST? YOU HAVEN'T? -- THEN COME WITH JIM AND BETSY KEEGAN -- COME WITH THEM THROUGH AND BEYOND --

THE DOOR



BETSY AND JIM KEEGAN WERE A HAPPY CAREFREE COUPLE AND THEY LIKED TO SPEND THEIR TIME DOING HAPPY, CAREFREE THINGS ---

OOH, THE FUN HOUSE! LET'S GO IN, JIM!

OKAY! LOOK AT THAT DEVIL -- SEEMS ALMOST REAL!



THE FUN HOUSE WAS ALL THAT WAS CLAIMED FOR IT-- CRAZY-LOOKING, COCKEYED ROOMS, HILARIOUS CURVED MIRRORS, FLOORS THAT COLLAPSED UNDER YOU ---





THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND THEM LEAVING THEM IN ALMOST TOTAL DARKNESS! THE ONLY LIGHT IN THE CURIOUS CAVERN EMANATED FROM THE WALLS!

HEY, DID YOU NOTICE -- THESE WALLS ARE LUMINOUS? YES IT'S POSITIVELY EERIE! WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL SEE WHAT THIS TUNNEL LEADS TO!



THEY WOUND THEIR WAY ALONG THE WINDING PASSAGES, COMING TO MANY FORKS IN THE PATH, CHOOSING THEIR WAY AT RANDOM --- SUDDENLY BETSY LET OUT A BLOOD-CURLING SHRIEK ---



A SNAKE! I STEPPED ON IT! HOLY SMOKES, IT'S A REAL ONE! HEY, I DON'T LIKE THIS -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



THEY TURNED AND BEGAN TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK THE WAY THEY HAD COME ---



IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT JIM KEEGAN KNEW A MOMENT OF PANIC, FOR HE REALIZED SUDDENLY THAT HE HADN'T THE VAGUEST NOTION AS TO HOW TO GET BACK--

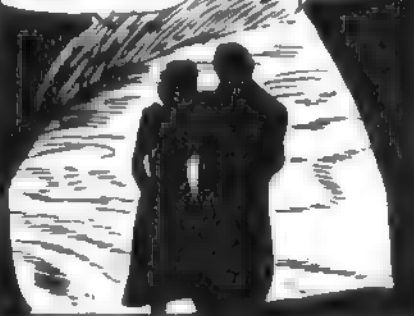
WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP ON GOING AND TRUST TO LUCK! THIS TUNNEL HAS TO END SOMEBODY!



BUT THE TUNNEL DID NOT END! IT WENT ON AND ON-- TURNING, TWISTING, BRANCHING INTO COUNTLESS TRIBUTARIES-- LEADING THEM DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE ENDLESS MAZE---

JIM! I'M SCARED! WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY CAN'T WE FIND OUR WAY OUT?

I DON'T KNOW, BABY, BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING!



THEY DID KEEP GOING! FOR HOURS AND HOURS THEY SEARCHED, TERROR GRIPPING THEM TIGHTER AND TIGHTER IN ITS SUFFOCATING GRASP! HUNGRY, FRIGHTENED AND EXHAUSTED, THEY REALIZED THAT THEY WERE COMPLETELY AND IRRETRIEVABLY LOST---

JIM, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US? WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH-- NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW! OH, JIM-- IT'S HORRIBLE!

EASY HONEY-- EASY! WE'LL FIND A WAY!



SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS A FIGURE APPEARED---

JIM, LOOK!

A MAN--- BUT LOOK AT HIM!



THE CREATURE STAGGERED FORWARD --- LAUGHED ONCE IN A STRANGE, CRACKED, HIGH-PITCHED VOICE, AND THEN FELL AT THEIR FEET, HIS WHOLE BODY WRACKED WITH SOBS AND HYSTERICAL WEeping---



PARALYZED INTO SPEECHLESSNESS THEY WAITED UNTIL THE STRANGER HAD REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE! THEN THEY LISTENED SILENTLY AS HE TOLD THEM A STRANGE TALE---

MY NAME IS CONRAD STEINER! I AM-- I WAS A CIVIL ENGINEER! FIVE YEARS AGO I WAS SENT TO THIS LOCATION TO SURVEY THE AREA FOR A POSSIBLE AMUSEMENT PARK!



I WAS LOOKING OVER THE SITE WHEN I RAN ACROSS A STRANGE DOOR CARVED IN THE SIDE OF A CLIFF! I ENTERED IT AND--- WELL I GOT LOST SOMEHOW AND HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND MY WAY OUT SINCE! YOU ARE THE FIRST HUMAN BEINGS I HAVE SEEN IN ALL THAT TIME!

FIVE YEARS! GOOD HEAVENS!

HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER?



STEINER EXPLAINED THAT WATER WAS PLENTIFUL AS THE WALLS WERE CONSTANTLY COVERED WITH MOISTURE --

AS FOR FOOD -- THIS GREEN MOLD OR WHATEVER IT IS HAS KEPT ME ALIVE SOMEHOW!

BUT THE DOOR -- DO YOU THINK YOU WILL EVER FIND IT AGAIN? IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF OUR FINDING OUR WAY BACK TO THE DOOR?



WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR IT! YOU SEE, HERE IN THE LABYRINTH THERE IS NOT MUCH ELSE TO DO BUT SEARCH FOR THE DOOR!



SO THEY SEARCHED, LIVING SOLELY ON THE PECULIAR TASTELESS GREEN MOLD THAT CLUNG TO THE STONE WALLS! DAYS TURNED INTO WEEKS AND WEEKS INTO MONTHS -- GRADUALLY BETSY AND JIM FELT THEIR HOPES EBBING, AND AS HOPE LEFT THEM, SO, LITTLE BY LITTLE, DID THEIR SANITY --



THEY BECAME MERE SHADOWS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES AND STILL THEY WALKED AND WALKED SEARCHING INCESSANTLY, ENDLESSLY FOR THE DOOR -- THE DOOR TO CIVILIZATION -- TO SUNLIGHT -- TO LIFE! IT BURNED IN THEIR MINDS -- CONSUMED THEM -- DROVE THEM



--- AND THEN ONE DAY ---

A MAN!
A MAN!

HE SEES US! HURRY --- HE'LL KNOW WHERE THE DOOR IS -- HE MUST KNOW!



THEY STUMBLED OVER EACH OTHER IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO GREET THE NEW STRANGER! HYSTERICALLY THEY LAUGHED AND CRIED AND KISSED HIS HANDS AND HIS FEET -- AND THEN THEY ASKED HIM --

THE DOOR -- WHERE IS THE DOOR THAT WILL LEAD US FROM THIS INFERNAL HOLE!



HE GAZED AT THEM -- CURIOUSLY AT FIRST, AND THEN HE SMILED -- A SAD, SLOW SMILE! AT LAST HE SPOKE ---

STRANGE THAT YOU SHOULD ASK ME THAT QUESTION -- YOU SEE, I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE DOOR FOR THIRTY YEARS!



TIME BECAME MEANINGLESS NOW -- AND THE DOOR BECAME AN OBSESSION -- ALWAYS ELLIDING THEM -- ALWAYS BEYOND THEIR GRASP --

I CAN'T -- GO -- ON -- LEAVE -- ME -- LET -- ME -- DIE --!

NO! NO! WE CAN'T STOP NOW -- YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!



THEY HAD JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP -- HOPE HAD DRAINED FROM THEIR SOULS -- WHEN --

LOOK -- A DOOR!

BUT -- IS -- IT -- THE -- RIGHT -- ONE?



THEY STOOD BEFORE THE PORTAL -- AFRAID TO OPEN IT -- AFRAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE ANSWER TO THEIR SEARCH -- AFRAID THAT THEY WOULD BE DOOMED FOR THE REST OF THEIR DAYS --

SLOWLY JIM OPENED THE DOOR -- AND THEY LOOKED THROUGH TO FREEDOM -- TO WHERE FREEDOM SHOULD BE -- THEN THE SCENE BEFORE THEM REVEALED ITSELF AND THEY RECOLED IN HORROR -- IN TERROR --!

GO AHEAD -- OPEN IT -- OPEN IT!



-- YES, THEY HAD FINALLY FOUND THE DOOR -- THE RIGHT DOOR - THE DOOR TO HADES!

WELCOME -- WELCOME -- I SEE YOU FOUND THE WAY! GOOD! GOOD! ALWAYS ROOM FOR A FEW MORE! HEH -- HEH -- HEH!



THE
END

THROUGH THE PAGES OF HISTORY MAN HAS FOREVER REVERED HIS WOMEN... HE HAS PLACED THEM ON A PEDESTAL WHERE THEY ARE TO BE ADMIRER... ADORER... AND LOVED! AND IN THE YEAR 2253 MAN HAS NOT CHANGED... BUT NEITHER HAS THE FEMALE AND SO THE STRONGER SEX CONTINUES BLISSFULLY ON WITH THIS RELATIONSHIP, NEVER REALIZING THAT HIS PARTNER IS...

MORE DEADLY THAN THE MALE



TENSELY THE EARTHMEN PREPARED THEMSELVES FOR THE LANDING ON THE UNEXPLORED FOURTH PLANET OF THE STAR PROXIMA CENTAURI! THEY HAD TRAVELED FOUR LONG YEARS FROM MOTHER EARTH AND WERE THE FIRST MORTALS TO REACH THE DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM...

BRACE YOURSELVES, MEN... WE'RE GOING IN FOR A LANDING!

SHE'S LEVELING OFF...
FIVE... FOUR...
THREE... TWO...
ONE! FIRE RETARDO-JETS!

SLOWLY THE GIANT CRAFT SETTLED TO THE GROUND AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

SIR, THE AIR IS CHEMICALLY DIFFERENT THAN OUR ATMOSPHERE... BUT IT'S BREATHABLE!

CAPTAIN POPE! LOOK INTO THE VIEWER... OUR SHIP IS SURROUNDED... BY... BY...



EAGERLY THE MEN LOOKED INTO THE VIEWER! WHAT MONSTERS LURKED IN THE UNKNOWN! BUT YOU COULD HARDLY CALL THESE MONSTERS...



...BY, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!

IT TOOK BUT A FEW DAYS FOR THE EARTHMEN TO SET UP CAMP AND TO BEGIN WORK ON THEIR ASSIGNED PROJECT! A PROJECT THAT IF IT WAS TO SUCCEED WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE METHOD OF SPACE TRAVEL!



WHAT IS THAT STRANGE THING YOUR MEN ARE WORKING ON?

IT TOOK US FOUR YEARS TO TRAVEL FROM EARTH TO THIS PLANET, BUT WHEN THIS MACHINE IS COMPLETED WE CAN MAKE THE TRIP IN A MATTER OF SECONDS!

THE WOMEN WERE NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT ALSO FRIENDLY...

WE ARE PEACEFUL SPACEMEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH ON A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM!

EARTH? SOLAR SYSTEM? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT YOU ARE WELCOME AS FRIENDS AMONG MY PEOPLE!



WE CALL IT AN **ELECTRONIC EYE INTERSPACE TRANS-PLANTER!** A PERSON OR OBJECT PLACED INSIDE WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO ENERGY, DIFFUSED THROUGH THE LIGHT BEAM EXISTING BETWEEN HERE AND EARTH AND BROUGHT BACK TO ORIGINAL STATE BY A SIMILAR MACHINE THERE!

LANCE DAYSTROM WAS THE CHIEF ENGINEER ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE E.E.I.T... BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN HE FOUND IT RATHER DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND...



SIR, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE INSULATION ON THESE RESISTORS... HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

YEAH, SHE SURE IS! ER, WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING?



BASICALLY A SHY MAN, LANCE BIDDEN HIS TIME WITH THE BEAUTIFUL CREATURE! BUT NOTICING THE LACK OF ANY NATIVE MALES IT WASN'T TOO LONG BEFORE HE STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ALLURING GIRL!

LACTRA, EH? THAT'S AN ODD NAME!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS ON MY PLANET YOU MAY FIND ODD... BUT, I'M SURE I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO OFFER BESIDE A NAME!



AS YOU CAN SEE, FEMININE LURES HAD EVEN PENETRATED TO THE VOIDS OF OUTER SPACE! AND THIS WAS A FRIENDSHIP THAT WAS DESTINED TO BLOSSOM EVEN FURTHER! BUT AT THAT INSTANT A STRANGE PERIL WAS SEEN IN THE SKIES!

LOOK, LACTRA... SOMETHING COMING TOWARD US!

IT'S THE WINGED SCABS! RUN... TAKE COVER!



THE TERRIBLE INVADERS WERE ON THE UNSUSPECTING EARTHMEN BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT HAPPENED...



DESPERATELY LANCE TRIED TO FIGHT OFF THE MONSTER... BUT HE WAS NO MATCH FOR ITS SUPERIOR STRENGTH AND WAS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE...

IT... IT'S NO... USE... HE'S... TOO... POWERFUL...



...UNTIL LACTRA ENTERED THE FIGHT. LANCE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT AT HER TACTICS WHICH DEFIED DESCRIPTION...



... A TACTIC THAT SUDDENLY PARALYZED THE WINGED SCAB WHICH FELL HELPLESSLY AT LANCE'S FEET...



WHAT THE ... IT'S ... IT'S ... HELPLESS!

... AND BEING THE MASTERFUL MALE, LANCE QUICKLY RECOVERED HIS SENSES AND FINISHED OFF THE MONSTER!

THERE... HE WON'T GIVE US ANY MORE TROUBLE!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE SPACEMEN, WITH THEIR SUPERIOR WEAPONS, HAD BEATEN OFF THE WINGED INVADERS... AND THE BATTLE ENDED IN A COMPLETE VICTORY FOR THE EARTHMEN AND LACTRA'S PEOPLE!

THEY'VE GONE!
THEY'VE GONE!
YOU'VE BEATEN
THEM OFF!



AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE WINGED SCABS, THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN LANCE AND LACTRA NATURALLY DEVELOPED EVEN FURTHER! AND JUST AS NATURALLY BLOSSOMED INTO LOVE! IT WAS DIFFICULT, OF COURSE, BECAUSE, LANCE, AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED, WAS STILL RATHER SHY...

I... ER... DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN... BUT I THINK YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT... I... I UNDERSTAND... DARLING!

LANCE DIDN'T HAVE TO EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS... HIS ARDENT KISS SPOKE FOR HIM... AND LACTRA UNDERSTOOD!



THE NEXT DAY WAS TO BE A DAY FULL OF SURPRISES AND WONDERFUL NEWS TO THE PEOPLE IN LOVE!

DARLING, I HAVE WONDERFUL NEWS... I TOLD THE CAPTAIN WE WANT TO GET MARRIED AND HE SAID HE'LL LET US BE THE FIRST PEOPLE TRANSENERGIZED TO EARTH THROUGH THE E.E.I.T.!

THAT'S MARVELOUS... I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR PLANET THAT I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

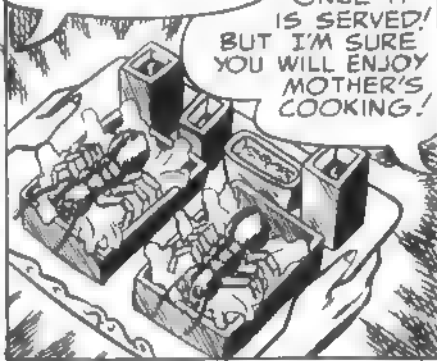
I TOLD MOTHER AND SHE'S VERY THRILLED ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

...AND I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT YOU TWO CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT WORLDS HAVE FOUND LOVE IN EACH OTHER!



THIS OCCASION CALLS FOR A LITTLE CELEBRATION SO I'VE PREPARED A SMALL FEAST!

IT IS OUR CUSTOM NOT TO REFUSE FOOD ONCE IT IS SERVED! BUT I'M SURE YOU WILL ENJOY MOTHER'S COOKING!



IT WAS A RATHER STRANGE AND MORBID FEAST THAT WAS SET BEFORE LANCE! BUT HE REMEMBERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITH THE WINGED SCABS AND SIMPLY PASSED IT OFF AS ONE OF THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE... OR TRIED TO!

MMM, THESE ARE DELICIOUS... WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, LANCE?

WELL... I'M NOT REALLY VERY HUNGRY!



THE DAY PASSED QUICKLY AND LIKE TWO STRANGERS GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, WAS SPENT IN FINDING OUT ABOUT THE OTHERS DIFFERENT BACKGROUND!

DARLING, I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE SEEN ANY MEN SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE! WHERE ARE THEY?

WHEN THEY BECOME OLD ENOUGH TO MATE OUR LAW REQUIRES THAT THEY STAY ON ANOTHER PART OF THE PLANET!



FINALLY, AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY, THE DAY THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR ARRIVED... THE COMPLETION OF THE E.E.I.T.! EVERYTHING WAS THOROUGHLY CHECKED AND THE TWO LOVERS WERE PLACED SIDE BY SIDE IN THE MACHINE...

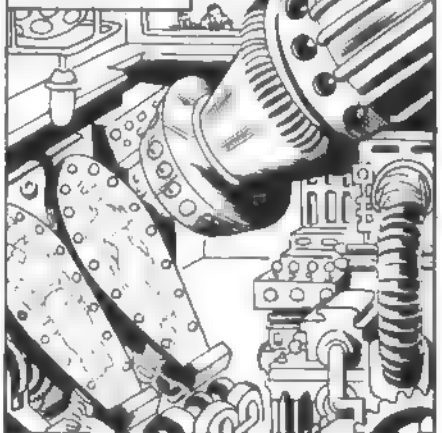


DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, MY LOVE... WE'LL BE ON EARTH BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED!

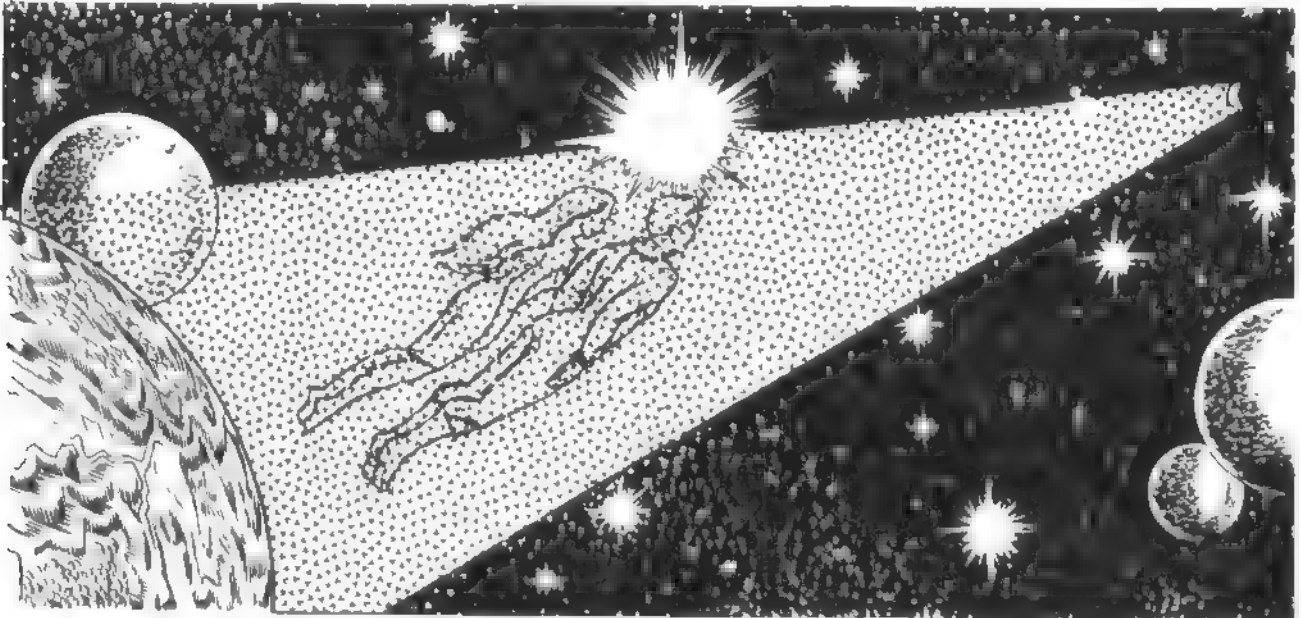


WITH YOU BESIDE ME I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

THE SWITCH IS THROWN AND THEIR BODIES ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO TRILLIONS OF ATOMS...



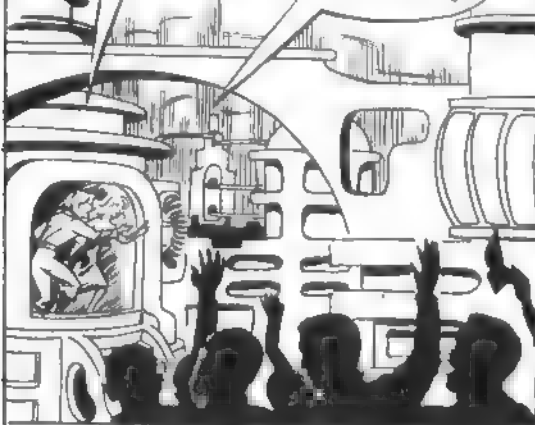
...WHICH ARE DIFFUSED THROUGH THE LIGHT BEAM THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO PLANETS...



...THE ATOMS ARE PICKED UP BY THE RECEIVITING MACHINE ON EARTH, REBUILT TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER LANCE AND LACTRA MATERIALIZE TO BEGIN THEIR LIFE ANEW!

WELCOME HOME, DARLING... WELCOME TO EARTH!

WHY... WHY... IT'S BEAUTIFUL! IT'S EVERYTHING YOU SAID AND MORE!



THE HONEYMOONERS SUFFERED THROUGH THE MANY CUSTOMARY CEREMONIES AND EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN ELUDING THE HIGH EARTH OFFICIALS...

WELL, DARLING... AT LAST WE'RE ALONE! HOW'S MY BRIDE TAKING EVERYTHING?

I... I... FEEL DIZZY... IT MUST BE THE ATMOSPHERIC CHANGE! MAYBE I'LL FEEL BETTER IN THE MORNING!



LANCE AWAKENED EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AND TURNED TO GREET HIS NEW BRIDE! OR TRIED TO!

WHAT THE... I... I'M TIED DOWN!



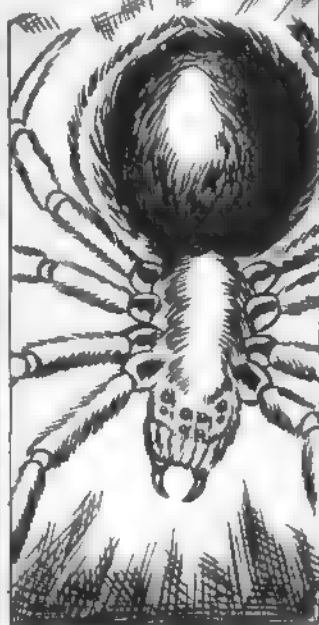
AT FIRST HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT! WAS THIS ANOTHER OF HER STRANGE CUSTOMS?



BUT AS SHE BITES INTO HIS NECK AND HE FEELS A BURNING POISONOUS VENOM SEEPING THROUGH HIS VEINS PARALYZING HIS EVERY MUSCLE... HE REALIZES THE ANSWER TO IT ALL!



NOW HE KNOWS WHY INSECTS WERE HER MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD... WHY HER HOME WAS A TENT OF SILK - SPUN SILK... WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE MALE POPULATION OF HER PLANET! NOW HE KNOWS ALL THOSE ANSWERS.



NOW HE KNOWS THAT HER FORM OF LIFE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF A CERTAIN INSECT HERE ON EARTH... AN INSECT THAT **DEVOURS** THE MALE ONCE IT IS MATED... AN INSECT SCIENTIFICALLY NAMED THE LATRODECTUS MACTAN!



IN A FEW SECONDS I'LL BE DEAD AND MY WIFE WILL BE A WIDOW...
A BLACK WIDOW!



THE END

THE OTHER WORLD

WOW, LOOK AT THAT ONE FROM SATURN... SURE HATE TO RUN INTO THAT IN A DARK ALLEY!

C'MON, WE'VE BEEN IN THE **SPACE MUSEUM** TOO LONG AS IT IS. WE'VE GOT TO SEE CAPT. LAND OF THE **OUTER GUARD PATROL**... HE'S GOT AN ASSIGNMENT FOR US



THE YEAR: 2252! MAN HAD ADVANCED BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS! THE STARS WERE HIS HORIZONS, THE UNIVERSE HIS GOAL! EVEN THE OTHER PLANETS HAD FALLEN TO MAN... BECAUSE MAN WAS... **CIVILIZED!**

AHH, LOWERY AND WARREN, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THIS ASSIGNMENT. **LIFE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED ON PLANET 2-A IN THE FIFTH GALAXY!** I WANT YOU TWO TO GO THERE AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND... SEE IF THEY'RE FRIENDLY!

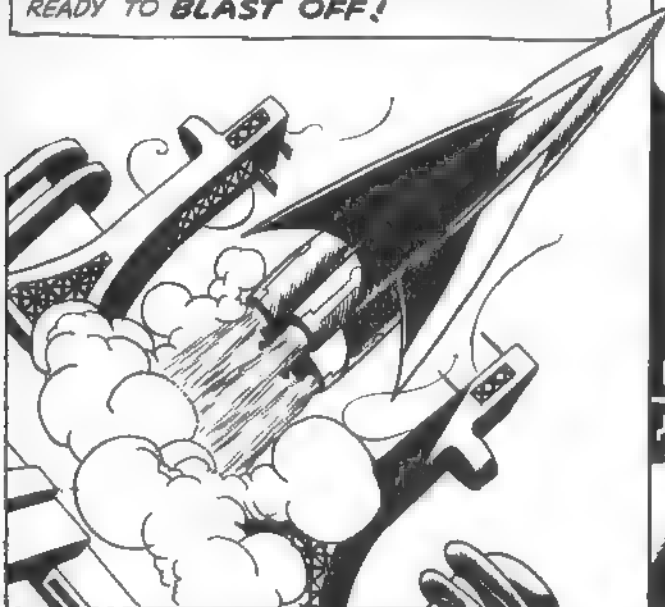
VERY GOOD, SIR... WHEN DO YOU WANT US TO LEAVE?



AT ONCE! YOU'LL FIND A CRAFT READY AT THE OUTER-SPACE-PORT! AND IF POSSIBLE, WE WANT YOU TO BRING BACK A SPECIMEN OF THE INHABITANTS... THE **HIGHER COUNCIL** WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE THE TYPE OF LIFE WE'LL BE DEALING WITH!



A FEW HOURS LATER THE EXPEDITION WAS READY TO **BLAST OFF!**



IMAGINE, LIFE OUT THERE IN THE **FIFTH GALAXY!** WONDER WHAT WE'LL FIND!

STOP WONDERING, YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH... WE'RE ALMOST THERE!



A SHORT TIME LATER THE SPACE SHIP LANDED. THE TWO MEN WERE READY TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN PLANET!..



FULL POWER ON THOSE RETARDO-JETS, TED!

WATCH THAT GYRO, SHE'S LEVELING OFF!

GUESS THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN THEY SAID THIS PLACE HAD LIFE ON IT! **LOOK!**

KEEP THAT GUN READY... I DON'T THINK IT'S SPOTTED US YET!



KEEP FIRING! THAT THING ISN'T DOWN YET!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT! IT'S TOUGHER THAN THOSE **TIGRO-TANKS OF PLUTO!**



LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT! THERE ISN'T ANYTHING IN OUR GALAXY THAT CAN COMPARE WITH IT!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHERS HANGING AROUND! BESIDES, WE'RE HERE TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY **CIVILIZED LIFE** ON THE PLANET!





MEANWHILE ON ANOTHER PART OF THE PLANET OTHER EYES WERE WATCHING THE TWO EARTH-MEN ...





I DON'T LIKE IT, PHIL... LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP AND BLAST OFF!

JUST A WHILE LONG, TED. WE'LL GO UP TO THAT RISE AND HAVE A LAST LOOK AROUND. IF WE DON'T SPOT ANYTHING WE'LL LEAVE!



LOOK CITY! A

C'MON, WHAT ARE WE WAITING HERE FOR! A CITY MEANS PEOPLE AND PEOPLE MEAN CIVILIZATION!



I WOULDN'T GET YOUR HOPES UP TOO HIGH ABOUT FINDING A CIVILIZATION, TED. WE'VE NEVER DISCOVERED ONE ON ANY OTHER PLANET!

THAT'S RIGHT, WE HAVE THE ONLY CIVILIZATION IN THE UNIVERSE!



A FORCE FIELD BLOCKING OUR WAY! ONLY A PEOPLE WITH SOME MECHANICAL SKILL COULD DEVISE THAT... THAT DEFINITELY MEANS A CIVILIZATION!

YOU'RE RIGHT! C'MON, HERE'S A CLEAR PATH OVER HERE! LET'S GO!



ANOTHER FORCE FIELD!

HERE'S THE EXIT! WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING THIS THING SEEMS TO BE DIRECTING TOWARD A DEFINITE PLACE!

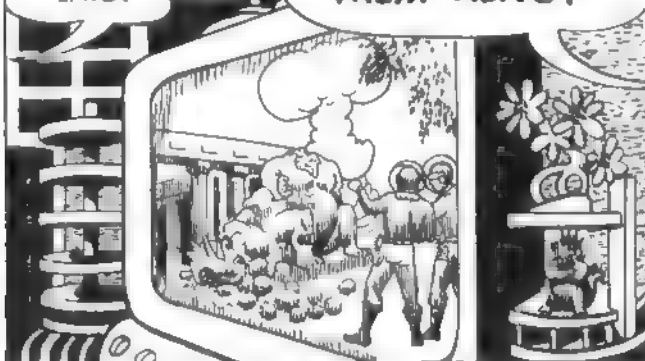


BLAST THAT PILE OF ROCKS, PHIL, IT'S BLOCKING OUR WAY!

MEANWHILE, THE EYES OF THE TELE-SCREEN CONTINUED TO KEEP ITS WATCH ON THE TWO SPACE MEN...

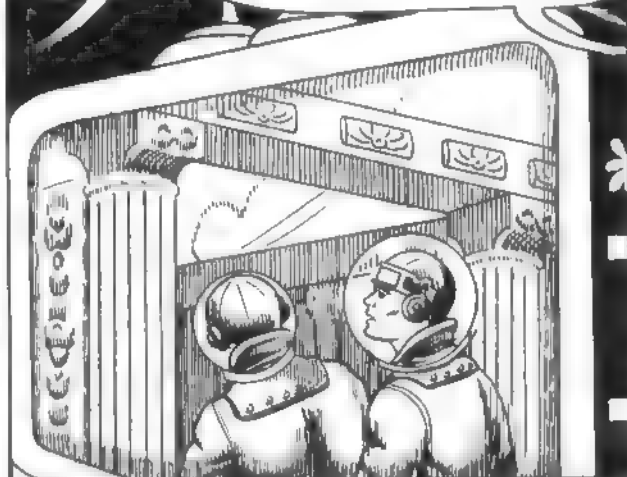
THEY'VE DESTROYED THE **TEMPLE OF LODI!** THE BARBARIANS! I SAY **KILL THEM** BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT... I CAN SEE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME TYPE OF CIVILIZATION AS WE DO! **IT IS BEST THAT YOU TAKE THEM ALIVE!**



WHY ALIVE? WHY NOT DO AWAY WITH THEM?

I AM SURE OUR SCIENTISTS WILL WANT TO EXAMINE THEM FIRST... THEY CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING IN THESE ALIEN SPECIMENS!



THIS PLACE COULD HAVE ONLY BEEN BUILT BY A CIVILIZED PEOPLE. LOOK AT THOSE CARVINGS! NEVER SAW ANYTHING ON EARTH TO COMPARE WITH THEM!

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM... THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF LIFE AROUND HERE!



THERE'S YOUR ANSWER... THOSE MONSTERS! THEY MUST HAVE OVER-RUN THE ENTIRE PLANET!

BETTER BLAST IT... IT'S GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!



LET IT GET A LITTLE CLOSER, PHIL... NO SENSE IN TAKING ANY CHANCES ON MISSING!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... OKAY, HERE GOES!...



I CAN'T SHOOT... I'M, I'M PETRIFIED!— PARALYZED ???

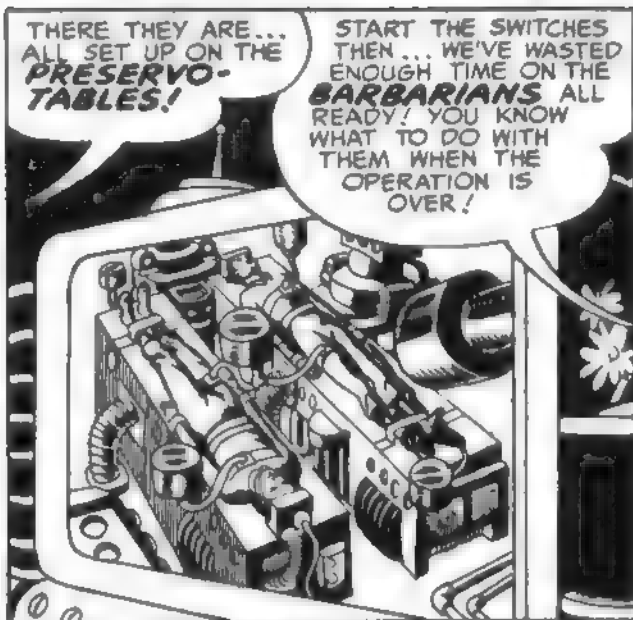
ME, ME, ME TOO!





OKAY, NOW THAT WE HAVE THEM WHAT DO YOU WANT DONE WITH THEM?

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER, GET THEM READY TO PUT IN WITH THE OTHERS!... THEY'LL MAKE AN INTERESTING PAIR!



THERE THEY ARE... ALL SET UP ON THE **PRESERVOTABLES!**

START THE SWITCHES THEN... WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON THE **BARBARIANS** ALL READY! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM WHEN THE OPERATION IS OVER!



A FEW MONTHS LATER...

...AND THOSE ARE THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLANET **MITEL**. THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CIVILIZATION OR CULTURE... THEY ARE COMPLETE **BARBARIANS!**

...GEE, LOOK AT THEM... THEY SURE LOOK FUNNY, DON'T THEY?

SEUM
DURS
D-1700

[MITEL]

[GLARE]



...OOH, LOOK AT THOSE TWO! WHAT UGLY CREATURES!

THEY MUST BE THE TWO WE HEARD ABOUT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO... THEY ARE THE WORST THAT OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE EVER CAPTURED!



BUT WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

RECORDS SHOW THAT THEY CAME FROM A PLANET CALLED **EARTHE**... AND FROM ALL INDICATIONS THEY ARE THE LEAST CIVILIZED OF ANY RACE EVER DISCOVERED IN THIS OR ANY OTHER GALAXY!

[EARTHE NO 1]



YES, CHILD, YOU ARE TRULY LUCKY TO BE BORN OF US... US THE ONLY REALLY **CIVILIZED** RACE IN THE UNIVERSE!

END
OF
EXHIBIT

RIDICULOUS YOU SAY? PERHAPS, BUT WHO ARE WE TO SAY THAT WE ARE TRULY **CIVILIZED**? WHO KNOWS WHAT TYPES OF CREATURES AND CULTURES WE WILL FIND BEYOND THE STARS!

THE END

FRED HARRIS HAD TWO FAULTS IN THE EYES OF HIS WIFE, RITA -- ONE WAS THE LACK OF MONEY -- BUT MOST PEOPLE HAVE THAT FAULT, SO SHE COULDN'T BE TOO ANGRY AT THAT. IT WAS THE OTHER DEFECT THAT BOTHERED HER -- HER HUSBAND WAS JUST TOO --

CLUMSY

WATCH OUT -- OH MY NEW SWEATER -- IT'S RUINED! AND IT COST SO MUCH MONEY!

OH, I'M SORRY, RITA-BABY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED -- GUESS MY MIND WAS ON THAT NEW EXPERIMENT AT THE LAB!



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER WHY I LOVE YOU -- YOU'RE SO -- SO CLUMSY!

BUT RITA -- BUT DARLING! I JUST CAN'T HELP IT! GUESS I WAS BORN WITH TWO LEFT HANDS!

BUT RITA WAS A STRANGE GIRL -- AND COULD PUT UP WITH FRED'S CLUMSINESS -- THE QUESTION OF MONEY -- OR THE LACK OF IT WAS BEGINNING TO GET HER DOWN!

IT'S NO USE ME HID THIS LONG ENOUGH FRED -- WHAT GOOD IS A MARRIAGE WITHOUT MONEY! THE SAYING TWO CAN LIVE AS CHEAPLY AS ONE, IS NONSENSE!

I KNOW A SCIENTIST DOESN'T MAKE MUCH -- BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO GET ALONG!

MAYBE YOU CAN -- BUT NOT ME! I'VE BEEN POOR ALL MY LIFE! IT'S TIME THAT CHANGED! WE'VE GOT TO HAVE MORE MONEY, FRED -- AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT I DON'T CARE HOW YOU GET IT!



RITA COULDN'T
HELP BEING MONEY
HUNGRY--SHE HAD
ALWAYS BEEN A
POOR GIRL ---
THAT'S WHY SHE
HAD ALWAYS
WANTED THINGS --
THE THINGS SHE
KNEW EXISTED
BUT NEVER HAD!
BUT THEN SHE
FELL IN LOVE
WITH FRED! SHE
NEVER COULD
FIGURE OUT WHY
--PEOPLE PLAN
AND FIGURE --
THEN ALONG
COMES SOME-
BODY AND ALL
THOSE PLANS
GO RIGHT
OUT THE
WINDOW!

TAKE THE TIME THEY MET-- YOU COULD
HARDLY CALL IT A ROMANTIC SETTING!
IT WAS JUST FRED--ACTING NORMALLY--
TRIPPING OVER HIS OWN FEET ---

OH, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY-- THAT'S ALL
YOU MUST LET ME RIGHT --
PAY FOR THE ACCIDENTS WILL
DAMAGE! HAPPEN!



FROM SUCH A BEGINNING, ROMANCE BLOSSOMED!
AND EVENTUALLY THEY MARRIED! BUT THAT
DIDN'T CHANGE FRED--IF ANYTHING, THE
NERVOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION MADE
HIM EVEN CLUMSIER!

WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY
OF GETTING YOUR
BRIDE OVER THE
THRESHOLD!

OH, RITA--RITA --
FORGIVE ME! I'M
SUCH A CLUMSY
LOUT!



THEY SET UP HOUSEKEEPING -- AND AT FIRST THE
CLUMSINESS OF FRED WAS TAKEN AS A BIG JOKE!

NOW LOOK WHAT I'VE
DONE! I KNEW I
SHOULD HAVE LET
YOU HANG THIS
PICTURE!

HA! HA! YOU LOOK SO RIDIC-
ULOUS, DARLING --AND DON'T
WORRY ABOUT THE PAINTING--
WE CAN ALWAYS GET SOME
POOR ARTIST TO PAINT US
ANOTHER!



BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN FRED'S CLUMSINESS
WASN'T SO FUNNY--TIMES WHEN IT EMBARRASSED
HIS WIFE WHO WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE!

WATCH IT --
YOU CLUMSY
FOOL!

OH, GOSH, I'M REALLY
SORRY-- REALLY
SORRY!



BUT SHE LOVED FRED--THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF
THAT-- ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS TAKE HER IN HIS
ARMS AND SHE FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIS BEING
CLUMSY -- ALL ABOUT THE EMBARRASSMENT
HE CAUSED HER!

I LOVE YOU SO, RITA--
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
HOW MUCH!

OH FRED --
FRED --
FRED!



AND THEN HE WOULD KISS HER -- AND AT FIRST
HER THOUGHTS WERE ONLY OF HER LOVE FOR
THIS MAN -- BUT LATELY OTHER THOUGHTS
WERE POPPING INTO HER HEAD--OTHER IDEAS--

IF ONLY WE HAD MONEY--
WEALTH -- THIS
MARRIAGE WOULD
BE PERFECT!



IN HIS LABORATORY, FRED WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON-- THERE THE CLUMSINESS AND THE AWKWARDNESS WERE GONE-- THERE HE WAS THE PICTURE OF EFFICIENCY-- A DEFT TOUCH BEHIND A SKILLED MIND --



LIKE MOST OF US, RITA KNEW LITTLE OF A SCIENTIST'S ACTIVITY-- AND AT TIMES CARED LESS-- BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY SOME UNKNOWN BUG OF CURIOSITY GOT THE BEST OF HER --

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT ICE, FRED? WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT IS THIS?

I'M TRYING SOMETHING WITH SUSPENDED ANIMATION -- TRYING TO KEEP THE CAT BARELY ALIVE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME!



NOW FRED WAS IN HIS GLORY-- NOW HE COULD TALK OF SOMETHING THAT WAS NEAR AND DEAR TO HIM-- AND TO A WIFE THAT EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES MONEY!

THE RUSSIANS HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH SUSPENDED ANIMATION' AND I THINK I'VE FINISHED THEIR WORK'. BY PACKING THE ANIMAL IN ICE I BELIEVE I CAN KEEP THIS ANIMAL LIKE THIS FOR YEARS!



BUT RITA WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SUSPENDED ANIMATION -- MUCH MORE!

WOULD IT WORK ON A HUMAN -- AND FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME -- SAY ABOUT SEVEN YEARS?

I'VE NEVER EXPERIMENTED WITH HUMANS, BUT I HAVE ENOUGH FAITH IN MY WORK TO SAY THAT IT WOULD WORK! AS FOR HOW LONG, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD KEEP SOMETHING SUSPENDED THAT LONG -- AS LONG AS SOMEONE WAS AROUND TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING WENT WRONG!



RITA HAD HEARD ENOUGH-- ENOUGH TO SET HER BRAIN WORKING -- A PLAN HAD BEEN BORN--

DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ME, DARLING -- IT ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS I MADE IT SOUND, YOU KNOW!

NO! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH- RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT SOME THINKING TO DO -- AND I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU -- NOT NOW!



YES, RITA HAD FOUND THE ANSWER-- THE ANSWER TO WHERE SHE WAS GOING TO GET THAT MONEY SHE WAS ALWAYS DREAMING ABOUT!

IT'S GOT TO WORK-- IT JUST HAS TO!



THE HOURS PASSED AND RITA THOUGHT THE WHOLE PLAN THROUGH--AND THAT NIGHT SHE REVEALED IT TO FRED--TO A SHOCKED FRED!

FIRST WE'LL TAKE OUT A LARGE INSURANCE POLICY ON MY LIFE! THEN YOU'LL PACK ME IN ICE--SUSPENDED ANIMATION--YOU CALL IT--FOR SEVEN YEARS! I'LL BE DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD, THEN YOU AND I CAN COLLECT THE MONEY! OF COURSE YOU'LL BRING ME BACK TO LIFE AND WE'LL GO AWAY AND START ALL OVER--BUT THIS TIME WE'LL BE RICH!

NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!

BUT RITA KNEW HOW TO GET AROUND HER HUSBAND--FRED COULD NEVER RESIST HER SLIGHTEST WHIM ANYHOW--HE CERTAINLY COULDN'T NOW--

IF YOU REALLY LOVED ME-- YOU'D WANT THAT MONEY TOO-- 'CAUSE WITHOUT MONEY THIS MARRIAGE WILL BREAK UP! AND YOU DON'T WANT THAT, DO YOU?

NO-- I COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE YOU-- I JUST COULDN'T-- ALL RIGHT, RITA-- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT I'LL GO THROUGH WITH IT!

RITA WAS IN A HURRY TO START HER PLAN--AND SO THE VERY NEXT DAY--

THERE YOU ARE, A POLICY FOR \$100,000 ON YOUR WIFE! SEEMS STRANGE THOUGH, IN MOST FAMILIES IT'S THE HUSBAND WHO'S INSURED, NOT THE WIFE!

NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT, MISTER-- WE HAVE OUR REASONS-- WE HAVE OUR REASONS!

NOW FRED BEGAN TO SEE THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SCHEME-- AFTER ALL, IT WAS HIS MONEY TOO--OR IT WOULD BE HIS MONEY IN SEVEN YEARS--

WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE DONE IT!

NO, NOT YET-- THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP-- NOW COMES THE MORE DIFFICULT PART!

YES, THERE WAS A LOT MORE TO BE DONE--AND IMPATIENT FRED WAS IN A HURRY TO START--

NOT YET, FRED-- IF I WERE TO BE MISSING SO SOON AFTER TAKING OUT THE POLICY, THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS-- NO-- WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BIDE OUR TIME AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE!

RITA WAS SO CLEVER-- IT WASN'T EVERY MAN WHO HAD A WIFE LIKE THAT--NO WONDER FRED LOVED HER SO-- AND SO THEY KISSED TO THEIR FUTURE-- A FUTURE THAT WOULD BE FILLED WITH WONDERS THAT WEALTH COULD ACQUIRE!

A YEAR PASSED AND FINALLY IT WAS TIME --

READY,
DARLING?

YES!



NOW THE SCIENTIST WAS AT WORK--NO LONGER THE HUSBAND, FRED WAS THE PICTURE OF EFFICIENCY-- HIS FINGERS WERE SURE AND DEFT-- AND HE WORKED WITHOUT HESITATION --

THERE -- JUST A LITTLE MORE ICE--
NOW -- GOT TO KEEP THAT
TEMPERATURE DOWN!



THE PERFECTIONIST IN THE MAN CAME INTO PLAY-- NOW HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING HE'D ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT--

NOW I CAN STRAIGHTEN
OUT THAT BUMP ON HER
NOSE -- SURE IS EASY
WHEN IT'S JUST
ICE!



GENTLY HE PLACED THE ETHER CONE OVER HER FACE -- HER LOVELY FACE -- A FACE THAT WAS TO REMAIN HIDDEN FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS --

BREATHE DEEPLY
RITA -- BREATHE
DEEPLY!

GOODBYE -- MY
LOVE -- GOODBYE --
GOOD --

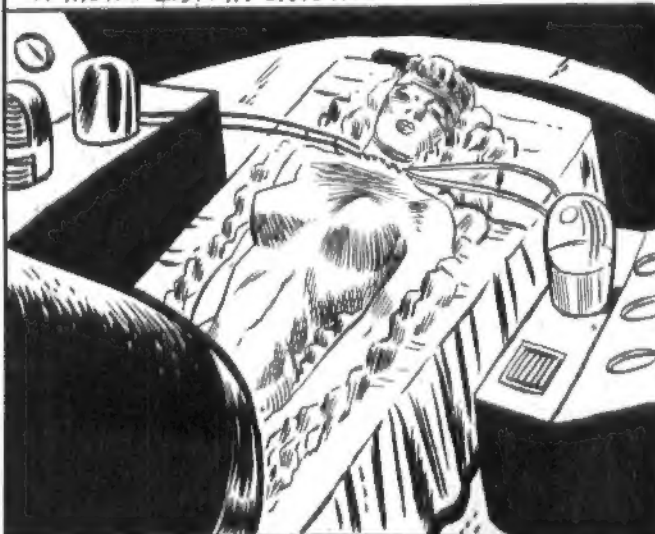


HE REMOVED THE BLOOD FROM HER BODY AND PROZE IT INTO A SMALL BRACELET-- A BRACELET WHICH HE STRUNG AROUND HER NECK -- HER WHITE ALABASTER NECK -- HER PERFECT NECK --

MIGHT LOSE THIS --
BETTER KEEP
IT WITH HER!



FINALLY, THE TASK WAS FINISHED -- AND RITA LAY THERE -- A SHIMMERING, SHINY MOLD OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN -- OF AN ICE WOMAN -- OF A MONA LISA IN CRYSTAL --



see through walls

the
man
from



U.N.C.L.E.

SPY PEN

FOR REAL UNDERCOVER OPERATORS

You can now keep constant check on anything that happens all around you, regardless of walls, floors, or ceilings. SPY-PEN penetrates solid barriers, makes any wall an open door. Yes, it even lets you look DOWN into rooms beneath you. We will let your own imagination trigger all the possible uses SPY-PEN has for you.

A PRECISION INSTRUMENT

SPY-PEN was developed by the German Secret Service during World War II and is being used by Interpol Agents today. Now an even more precise and improved model is being offered the public by the man from U.N.C.L.E. SPY-PEN has three precision ground optical quality lenses, not just two like competitive models, to afford an extreme wide angle field that lets you even see objects standing by the very wall through which you are observing.

PHOTOGRAPH THROUGH WALLS

SPY-PEN lenses have such sharp delineation that you can photograph right through it, sharply recording everything in the viewed area, all four walls, floor, and ceiling. Nothing escapes SPY-PEN.

BUILT-IN SECRET DRILL

Included in the SPY-PEN'S case is a secret drill that will attach to half the case and allow you to drill holes un-noticed even by people standing by the wall being penetrated. SPY-PEN needs only the smallest peep hole to put an entire room under surveillance.

CONVERTS TO POWERFUL TELESCOPE

Only SPY-PEN lets you close in telescopically on any item of interest. No other device has both these features, wide angle secret vision and close-up inspection.

CLIPS TO YOUR POCKET

SPY-PEN looks like an ordinary fountain pen in your pocket. Even if seen it will not be suspected as the incredible instrument with such amazing powers of penetration.

COMPLETE WITH SIMPLE HOW-TO-USE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET



— ORDER COUPON —

Hidden Devices Dept. 402-N
234 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001
Yes, I would like to order the amazing "SPY-PEN." If I'm not 100% satisfied with my "SPY-PEN" after the ten-day free trial I may return same for refund.
Please send me "SPY-PEN(S)"
I enclose cash, check or money order.
1 For \$4 ☐ 2 For \$7 ☐ No C.O.D.'s
3 For \$10 ☐ 4 For \$19 ☐ Please
Please rush, I enclose extra .50c.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Calif. residents add 4% Sales Tax

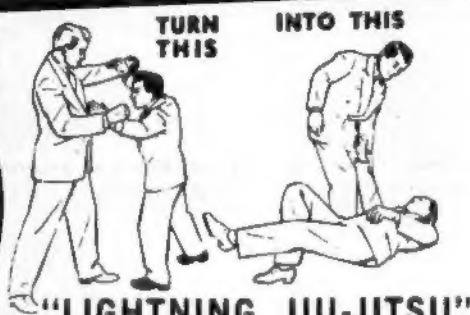
POWER-SPORT BOOKS

**ALL
3 BOOKS
ONLY \$2⁰⁰**



"HOW TO PERFORM STRONG MAN STUNTS"

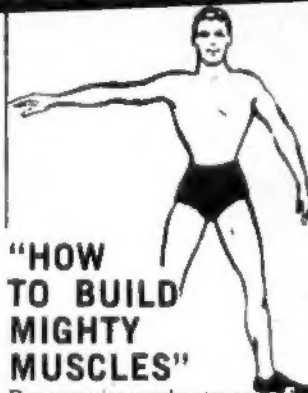
"All the World Loves a Strong Man." This book teaches how to become a leader among strong men... how to perform such feats as "how to tear a phone book in half," "how to bend a steel spike with your hands," etc. Illustrated.



"LIGHTNING JIU-JITSU"

Simple directions and how-to-do-it illustration tell and show every move to make anyone an expert in Jiu-Jitsu! Teaches step-by-step, how to be tough. Teaches a powerful, devastating defense (and offense, too) against any physical danger. Contains grips, holds, secrets, blows, pressures, jabs and tactics which are so quick and deadly in overcoming an opponent.

Illustrated.



"HOW TO BUILD MIGHTY MUSCLES"

Become vigorously strong and healthy! In easy-to-understand language, this book shows how to build a strong body. Explains use of bar bells, gives muscle-building exercises, etc. Illustrated.

Money Back Guarantee

PADELL BOOK CO.

Dept. LK-2 234 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

FRED REPORTED RITA'S DISAPPEARANCE AND OF COURSE THERE WAS AN INQUEST! BUT THERE WAS NO BODY TO BE FOUND, UNDER THE LAW, HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT SEVEN YEARS TO COLLECT THE MONEY! IT WAS JUST AS RITA HAD SAID-- JUST AS SHE FIGURED! IT WAS NO WONDER THAT HE LOVED RITA! WHO COULD HELP BUT LOVE A WOMAN LIKE RITA?

THE TIME PASSED AND MONTHS TURNED INTO YEARS AND SOMEHOW FRED MANAGED TO ACT THE PART OF THE MOURNING HUSBAND--FOR DEEP INSIDE HE WAS A MOURNING HUSBAND--WHAT FUN WAS THERE IN BEING MARRIED, WHEN HE HAD NO WIFE!



IT'S SO LONELY! IF I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS I WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH IT!

FINALLY FRED COULDN'T TAKE THE LONELINESS ANY LONGER-- HE HAD TO SEE RITA-- TO LOOK AT HER BEAUTIFUL FACE -- AND SO AT THE LABORATORY--



SHE'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I REMEMBER-- SHE'S 30-- 30-- PERFECT!

BUT THE BEST PLANS ARE OFTEN UPSET-- AND AT THAT MOMENT--

SOMEBODY'S COMING -- I MUST HIDE THE BODY-- GOT TO-- OH NO! NO! NO!



THE CLUMSY IDIOT--THE AWKWARD FOOL--NOW HIS CLUMSINESS HAD COST HIM-- LOOK AT HER, FRED-- BROKEN INTO A THOUSAND PIECES--TINY FRAGMENTS OF WHAT ONCE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN-- OF WHAT ONCE WAS YOUR WIFE! DON'T STAND THERE LIKE AN IDIOT -- DO SOMETHING -- DO SOMETHING BEFORE SHE MELTS!



HE HAD TO SAVE HER -- BRING HER BACK TO LIFE -- PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN! NO LONGER DID HE THINK OF THE MONEY-- NOW HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN SAVING HIS WIFE -- BUT SHE WAS LIKE A JIG-SAW PUZZLE -- HIS JOB WAS TO PUT HER TOGETHER -- BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!

YES, HE PUT HER BACK TOGETHER AGAIN -- AS BEST HE COULD -- BUT SOMEHOW SHE DIDN'T LOOK THE SAME -- WELL, FRED WAS A LITTLE CLUMSY AT THAT SORT OF THING, AND THEN AGAIN, PARTS OF HER BODY MELTED, SO YOU COULDN'T EXPECT TOO NEAT A JOB -- COULD YOU?

LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME, YOU CLUMSY AWKWARD IDIOT! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!



FRED AND RITA ARE STILL MARRIED-- BUT SOMEHOW THEY ACT A LITTLE COLD TOWARD EACH OTHER! AND WHEN THEY EMBRACE, FRED COMPLAINS THAT SHE FEELS LIKE ICE! AND OF COURSE RITA DOESN'T DARE GO OUT INTO THE SUN... WELL, WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT WHEN SOMEBODY'S ASSETS ARE FROZEN! HEH-HEH-HEH!

